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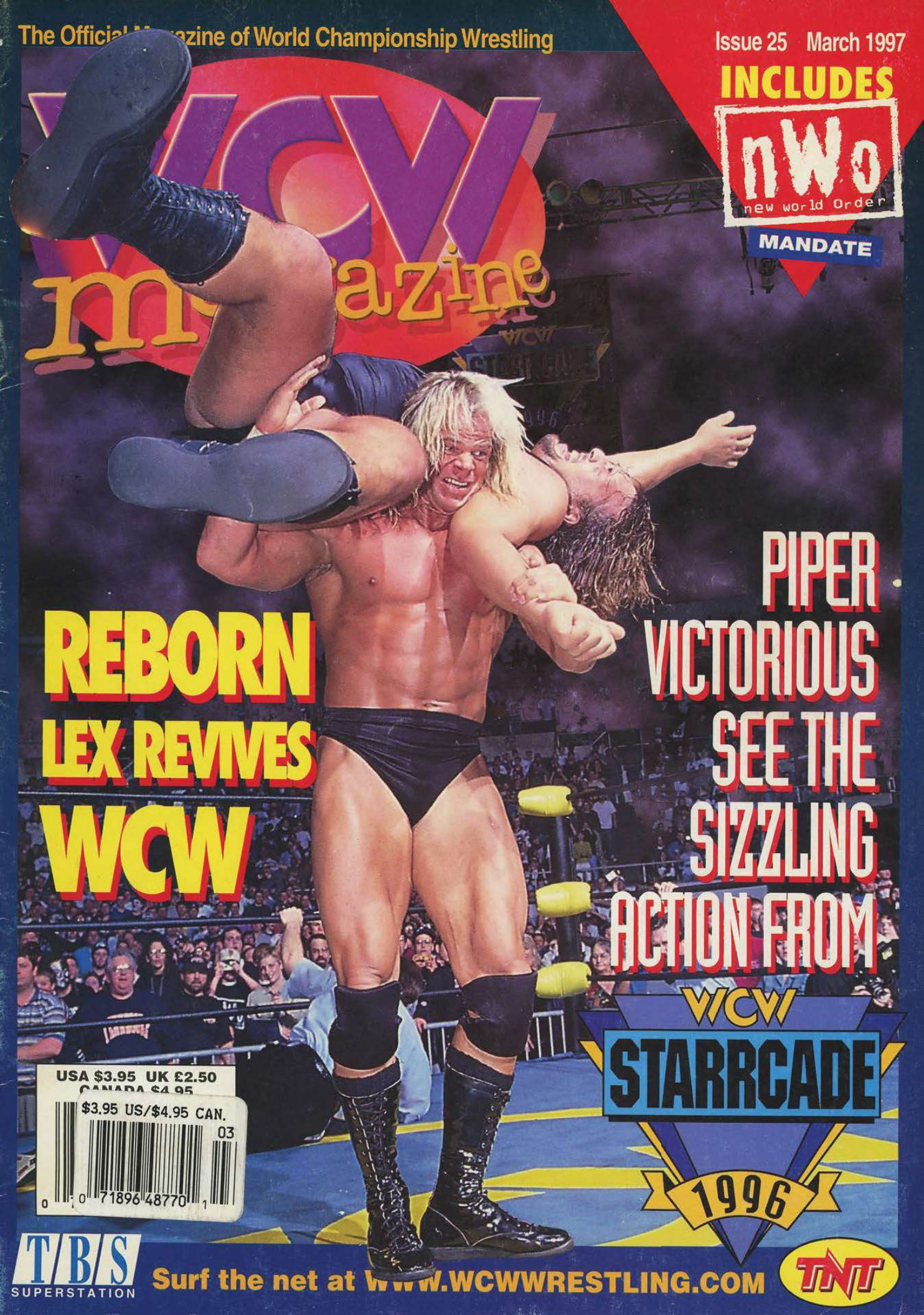

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EDITOR'S NOTE

'O Flower of Scotland
When will we see
Your like again,
That fought and died for
Your wee bit Hill and Glen
And stood against him
Proud Edward's Army,
And sent him homeward
Tae think again.'

The song quoted here is part of the National Anthem of Scotland, and it sums up the doctrines by which Roddy Piper lives his life.

If anyone had asked me who the true Icon in professional wrestling was, I would have told them ... 'Rowdy' Roddy Piper.

As a fellow Scot, it was a proud moment for me standing at ringside when Piper's hand was raised in victory after his battle against 'Hollywood' Hogan. It will be an even prouder moment when he finally get's the World Championship belt strapped round his waist.

Am I biased? Perhaps.

Am I patriotic? Definitely.

Forget all the jibes about wearing skirts. The kilt isn't a skirt. The colors and design show which clan you belong to. It symbolizes your roots. It reminds you of a heritage of great warriors who have fought for what they believe in over the centuries.

Scotland has also produced it's share of great intellectual minds. John Logie Baird (Inventor of TV), James Simpson (Anaesthetic), James Clerk Maxwell (Wireless Telegraphy), Sir Watson-Watt (Radar), Alexander Fleming (Penicillium), John Macadam (Road Surfaces), James Watt (Steam Engine).

Roddy Piper constantly proves he is as erudite as all the above names, but above all he is a great warrior. His name is known to the children of Scotland in much the same way as the other national heroes William Wallace and Robert the Bruce ... he is the modern day Braveheart, except his enemy isn't the English, it's The NWO.

Until now Scotland's most famous victory in a battle was Bannockburn 1314.

To that we proudly add ... Nashville 1996.

Now to other matters ...

Is it all over for The NWO?

Suddenly they don't look as invincible without The Giant in their fold. They must be worried. The Giant is a formidable ally and an even more formidable foe. With him on their tails, Piper madder than ever and Lex Luger on the hottest streak in his career, I wouldn't give you odds on The NWO gold vault containing anything but a few moths, before too long. Trillionaire Ted you'd better start filing the Chapter 9 papers. The NWO is heading for bankruptcy.

Finally, I would like to welcome our new columnists Lee Marshall, Public Enemy and Mr. Ego, Disco Inferno. I hope you will find them an entertaining addition to the magazine. So let me know.

Well that's it for another month, be safe and happy wherever you are,

Regards,
Colin Bowman.
Editor.

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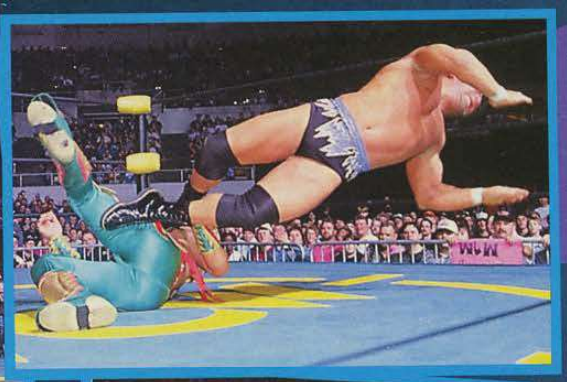
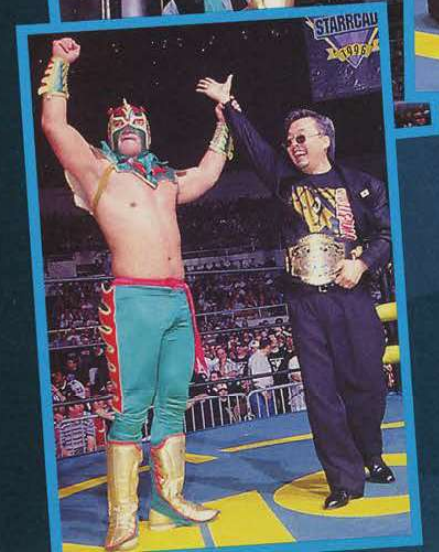




NASHVILLE, Tenn. - "Rowdy" Roddy Piper defeated "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan in the main event at Starrcade 1996! Yes, sir, in front of a standing-room-only Municipal Auditorium here in Music City, Hot Rod put the sleeper on "Hollywood" for the 1-2-3.

There was, mind you, lots of other action in the three hour extravaganza, kicking off with the Cruiserweight Unification Match.

BATTLE FOR THE BELTS

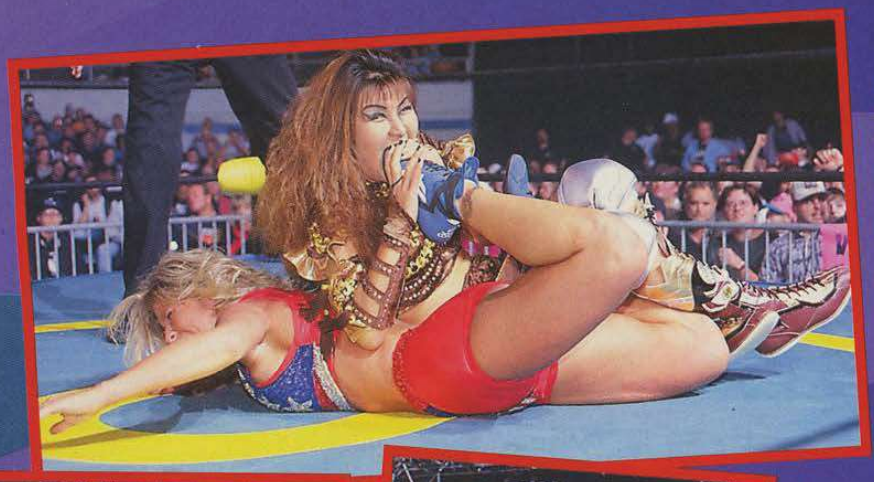
DEAN MALENKO vs ULTIMO DRAGON

Japanese super hero Ultimo Dragon came to the ring with eight championship belts from around the world, while his opponent, Dean Malenko, walked out with the prestigious WCW Cruiserweight Championship strap.

The match opened with Malenko working over Dragon's leg, then Dragon's arms, including an armdrag takedown and a scissor-lock hold. Dragon attacked throughout the match with vicious kicks and later blitzed Malenko with a suicide dive outside the ring. Malenko, though, was up to the task. His offense included leglocks, a version of the Boston crab, the STF and a sunset flip, among other moves. Sonny Onoo, Dragon's ringside manager, barked orders — in Japanese, of course — throughout the battle. Dragon attacked with a surfboard backbreaker and an abdominal stretch. Malenko answered with a German suplex (leading to a two-count), belly-to-back suplex, leg submission and — believe it or not — a dropkick to Dragon's injured leg. Malenko's offense also included a powerslam and spike piledriver, leading to a two-count. Dragon delivered his Asai Moonsault, then missed a moonsault inside the ring. Malenko went for the finish with his patented Texas Cloverleaf, but was distracted — albeit for only a split-second — by Onoo. That, though, was enough time for Dragon to regroup. Then, after Malenko delivered a perfect brainbuster, Dragon scored the upset victory with a variation of the tiger suplex. "Knowing Dean Malenko, that is a devastating loss, a devastating loss," WCW broadcaster Dusty Rhodes said.

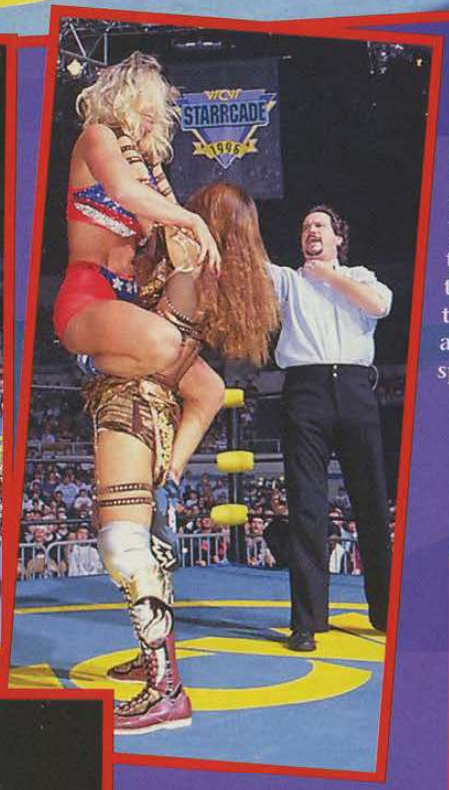
THE WINNER: ULTIMO DRAGON (18:30).

WCW STARRCADE 1996



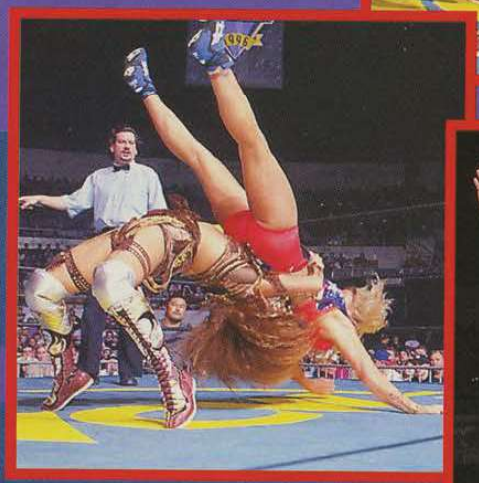
Sonny Onoo was ringside for the second match of the evening, and again played a major roll. In other words, Onoo's interference led to Akira Hokuto's win over Madusa for the WCW Women's Heavyweight Championship, a title that had been dormant for more than 10 years. Hokuto also came to the ringside with her husband, wrestling superstar Kensuke Sasaki, and the battle was, unquestionably, a fight between "the top two women in the world," Rhodes said. Hokuto attacked before the match officially started, rocking Madusa with a few hair whips. Madusa answered with a head scissors off the top rope. Hokuto then assaulted Madusa with a Texas Cloverleaf, a backbreaker, a suplex, a Code Red and — believe it or not — the feared toe-bite. Madusa answered with a powerslam, powerbomb and a belly-to-back suplex. Madusa dropkicked Hokuto off the top rope to the outside, then was blitzed by Onoo — with the American flag and a wooden pole. The three-count — for Hokuto — was then just academic, following a missile dropkick and spike piledriver.

THE WINNER: AKIRA HOKUTO (7:05)



WCW WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

MADUSA vs AKIRA HOKUTO



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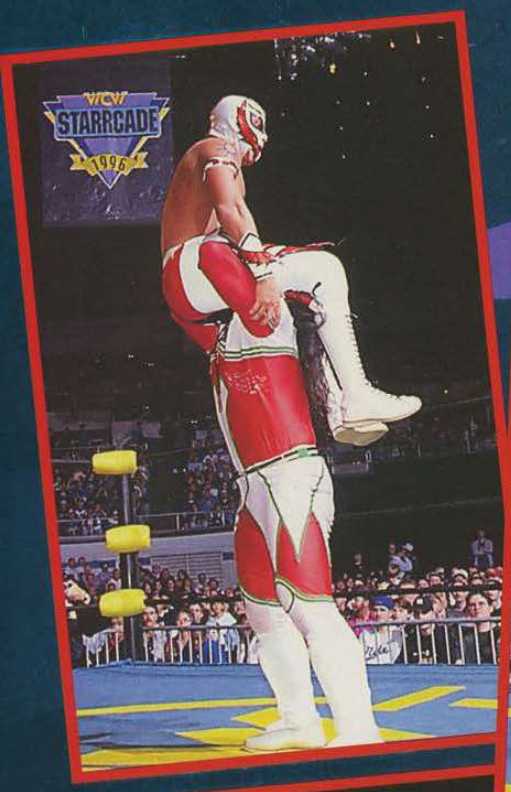
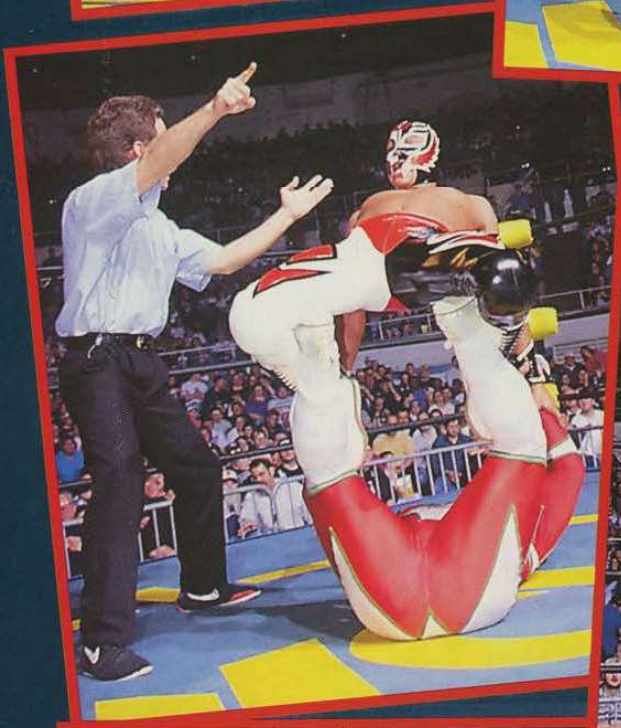


The Japanese contingent celebrated further in Match No. 3, as Jushin "Thunder" Liger defeated Rey Mysterio, Jr., in a "dream match up of international scope," as WCW broadcaster Tenay called it. Liger had the early edge, with a suplex, headbutt, powerbomb, backbreaker and — believe it or not — a powerbomb outside the ring. The 21-year-old Mysterio countered with a head scissors, German suplex and DDT. Mysterio then hit on a springboard dropkick, but missed on another springboard attempt as Liger countered with a dropkick. Liger then attacked with a dragonscrew legwhip, a diving headbutt and scored the 1-2-3 after the Liger Bomb

THE WINNER: JUSHIN "THUNDER" LIGER (14:18).

JUSHIN "THUNDER" LIGER vs REY MYSTERIO Jr.



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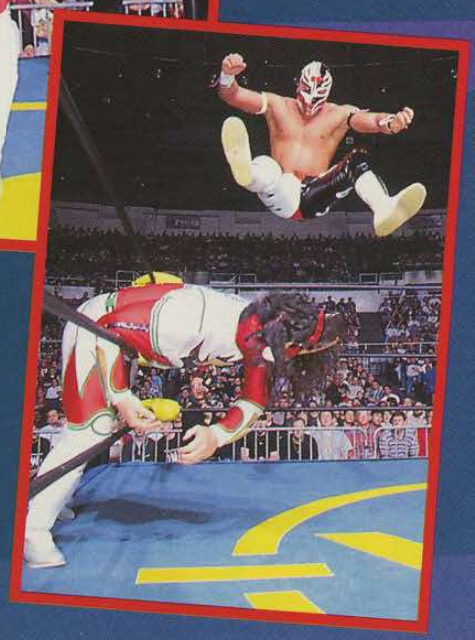
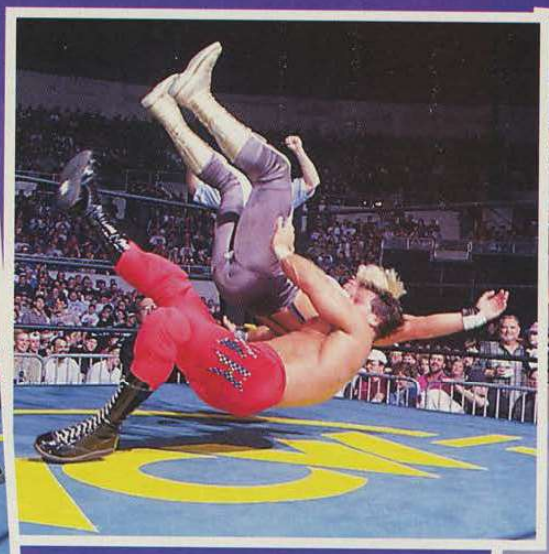
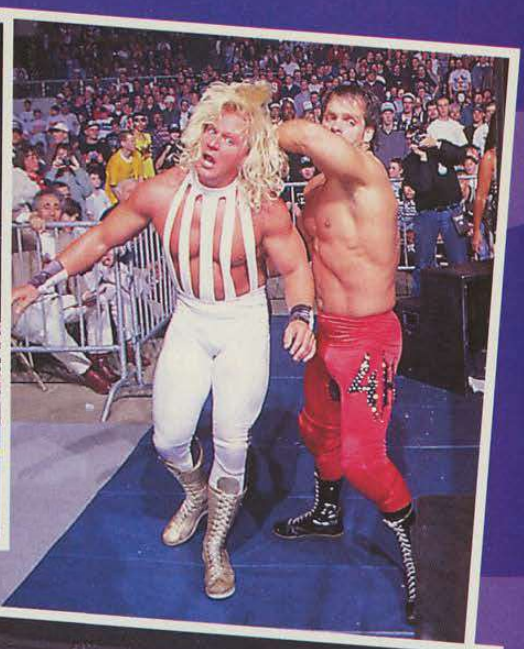
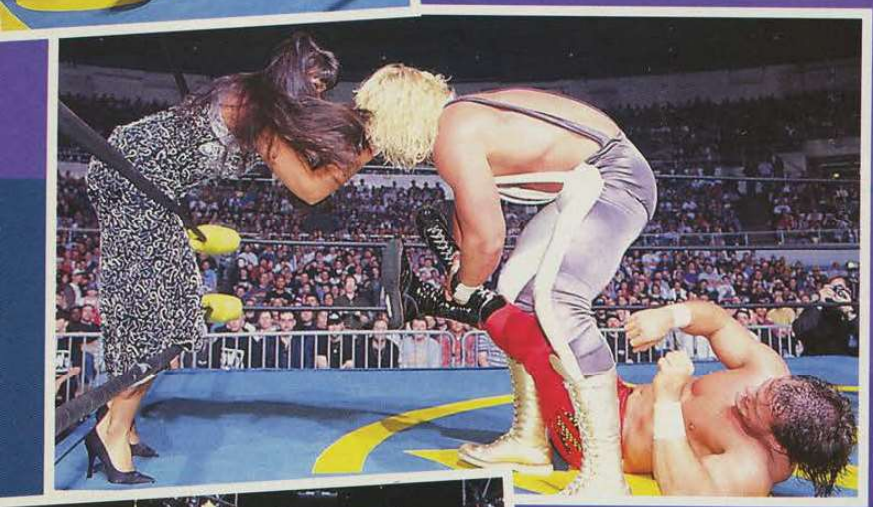
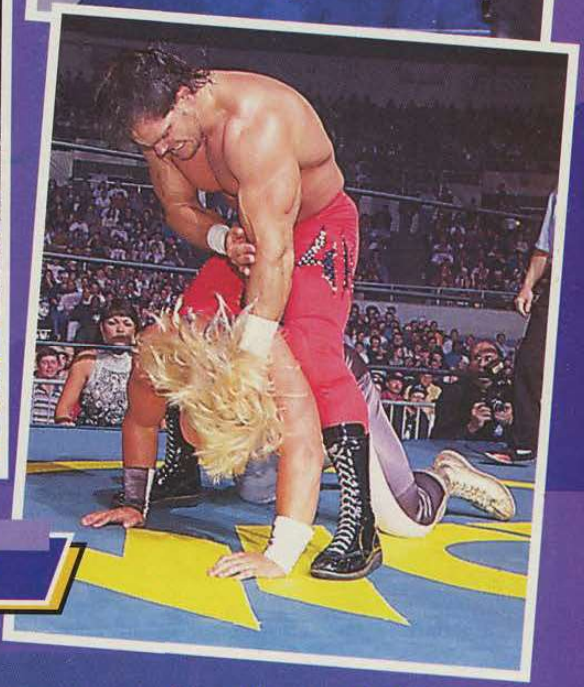
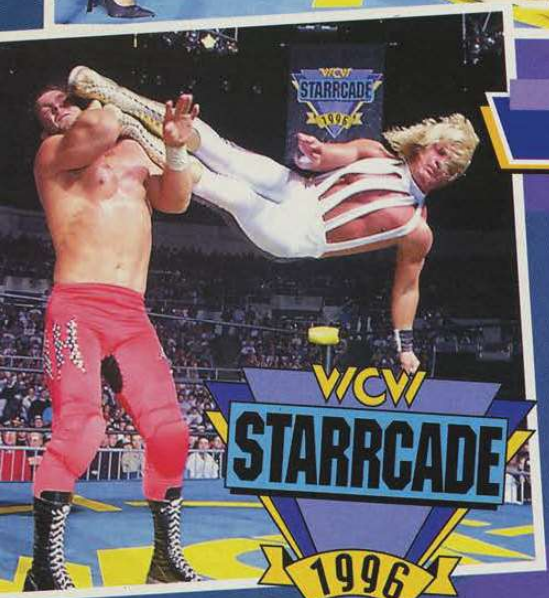












NO DISQUALIFICATION MATCH

CHRIS BENOIT vs JEFF JARRETT

Chris Benoit battled Jeff Jarrett in a No Disqualification Match that, without question, lived up to its billing. Benoit, with Woman by his side, brought everything to the match and quickly — with a slap to the face — turned it into a street fight. He later attacked with kicks, punches, slaps and even a stomp on Jarrett's face. Jarrett's offense include plenty of right-hands. So is Jeff Jarrett a member of The Four Horsemen? Is Benoit for that matter? What about Woman? Well, no questions were answered in this free-for-all, but plenty of new questions came to light. Why did Arn Anderson come to ringside and stand in Jarrett's corner? Why did he slap the DDT on Jarrett? Why didn't Anderson interfere when he saw Jarrett was going to grab the victory over Benoit? And then there was outside interference from The Dungeon of Doom. Konan and Hugh Morrus tried to restrain Woman. "Taskmaster" Kevin Sullivan, meanwhile, smashed a wooden chair over Benoit's head, sending splinters around the ring. "This is not Horsemen wrestling," WCW broadcaster Bobby "The Brain" Heenan said.

THE WINNER: JEFF JARRETT (13:50)

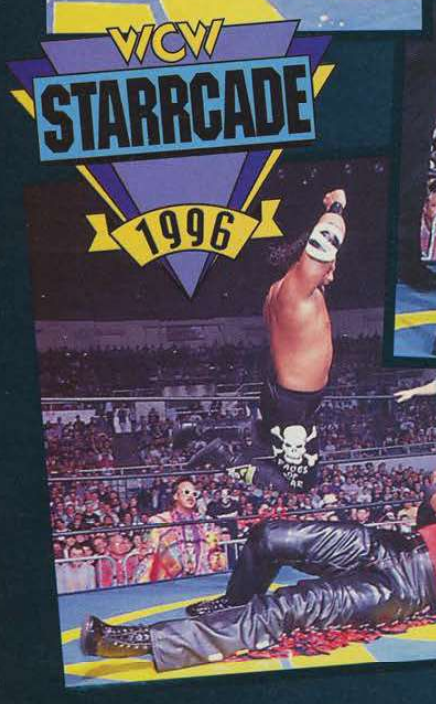
WCW WORLD TAG TEAM TITLE MATCH

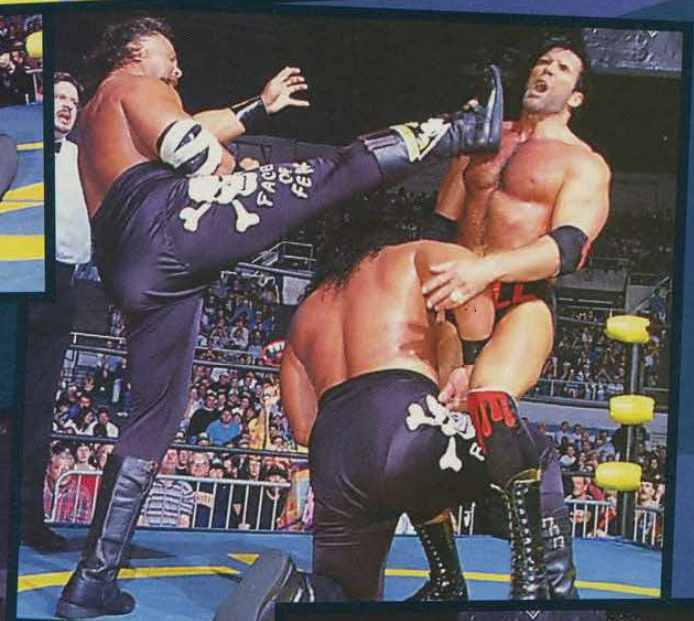
THE OUTSIDERS vs THE FACES OF FEAR

With an assist from "Referee" Nick Patrick, he of the slowest three-count in the Western Hemisphere, The Outsiders (Scott Hall and Kevin Nash) defeated The Faces of Fear (Meng and The Barbarian) to retain the World Tag Team Championship.

"These are tough human beings ... and they're barely human beings," Heenan said of The Faces of Fear who took it to The Outsiders early. Meng launched a vicious clothesline on Hall who, seconds later, countered with a bulldog off the ropes. The Faces of Fear delivered Dusty Rhodes' favorite, clubberin', on Nash. The Outsiders delivered a double noggin-knocker that was, well, useless. The Barbarian attacked with a side suplex on Nash, but then missed an elbow attack. Hall continued the onslaught on The Barbarian. Meng later executed a perfect piledriver on Hall. Syxx, in the corner of his NWO pals, chased Jimmy Hart to the locker room area. Hall reversed The Barbarian's nerve hold into a belly-to-back suplex. The Barbarian attempted the lethal boot-to-Nash's face, but missed. And Nash countered with the powerbomb. "Referee" Nick Patrick was, for a change, right there, ready to count to three. "These Outsiders are as good as they come," Rhodes said.

THE WINNERS: THE OUTSIDERS (11:55).

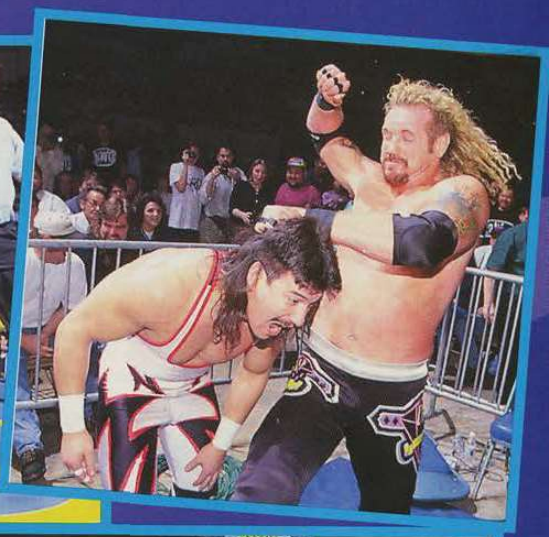


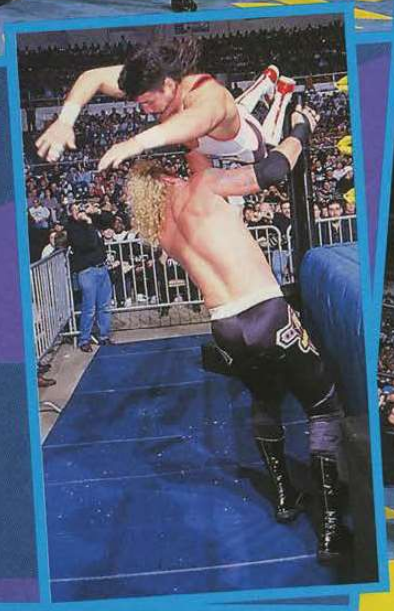


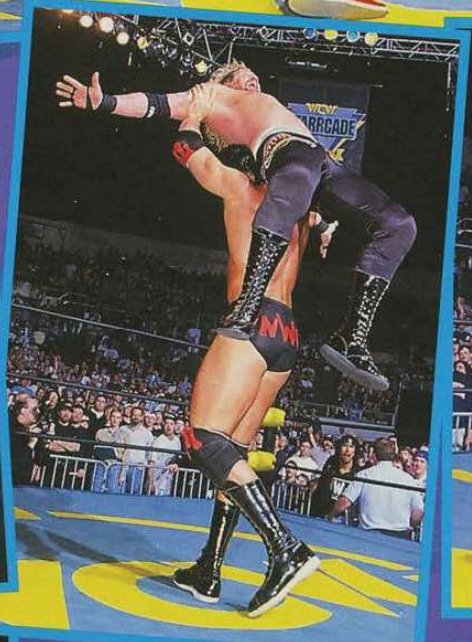
Eddie Guerrero defeated Diamond Dallas Page to capture the U.S. Title in the final of the tournament, but suffered dearly. Actually, both suffered — and neither walked away from the ring with the championship belt. It was, instead, The NWO's Syxx who left Nashville with the gold. At the 14:30 mark of a great match, Guerrero was sent out of the ring. DDP, meanwhile, was attacked from behind — in the middle of the ring — by Scott Hall, Kevin Nash and Syxx. Hall delivered The Outsiders Edge — on his former pal, DDP. When Guerrero regained his bearings, he spotted DDP prone in the middle of the ring, then delivered the frog splash off the top rope. The 1-2-3 was academic at that point. Hall, Nash and Syxx weren't done, though. They then attacked Guerrero, highlighted by a mighty spinning abdominal kick by Syxx.

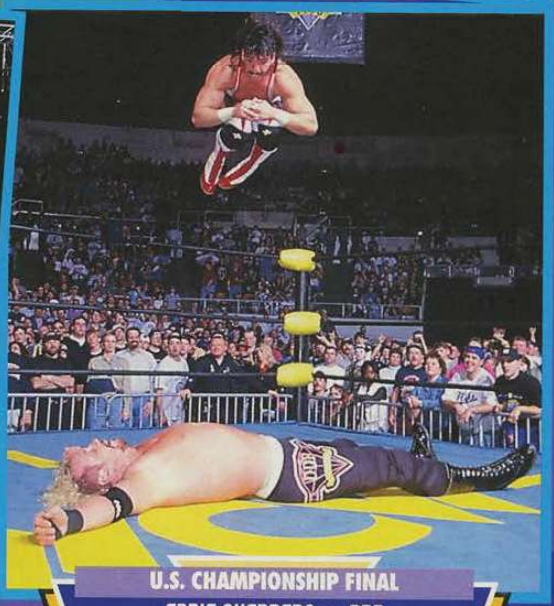
DDP and Guerrero had battled toe-to-toe for 14-plus minutes, with each on the attack at different points in a tense battle, a fight that went in and out of the ring. DDP's offense included a suplex at the 6:30-mark then, later, a swinging neckbreaker, a vicious clothesline and a shoulder block. Guerrero countered with a European uppercut at 10:45 that took DDP off his feet, then one of several small packages.

THE WINNER: EDDIE GUERRERO (15:21)



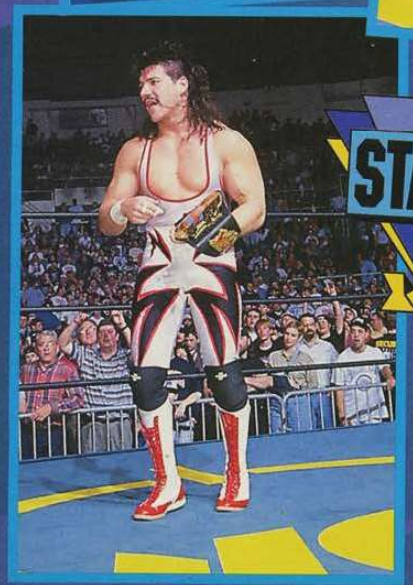






U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

EDDIE GUERRERO vs DDP



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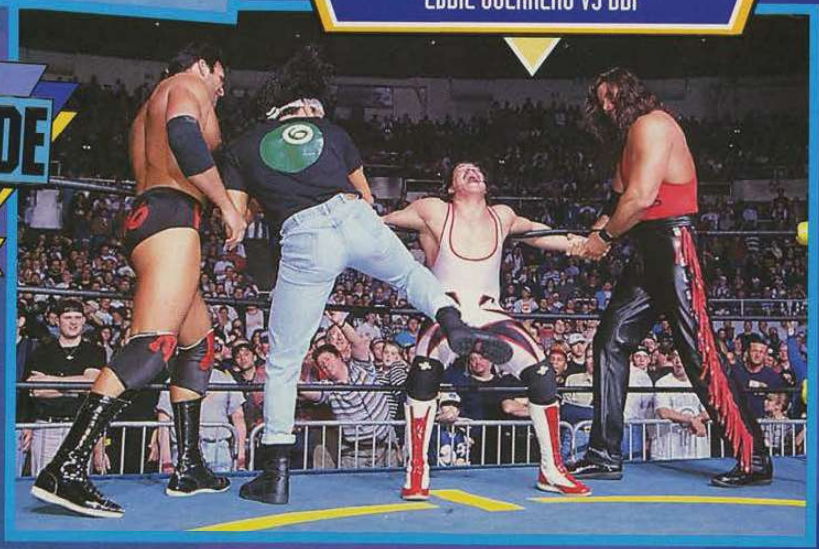

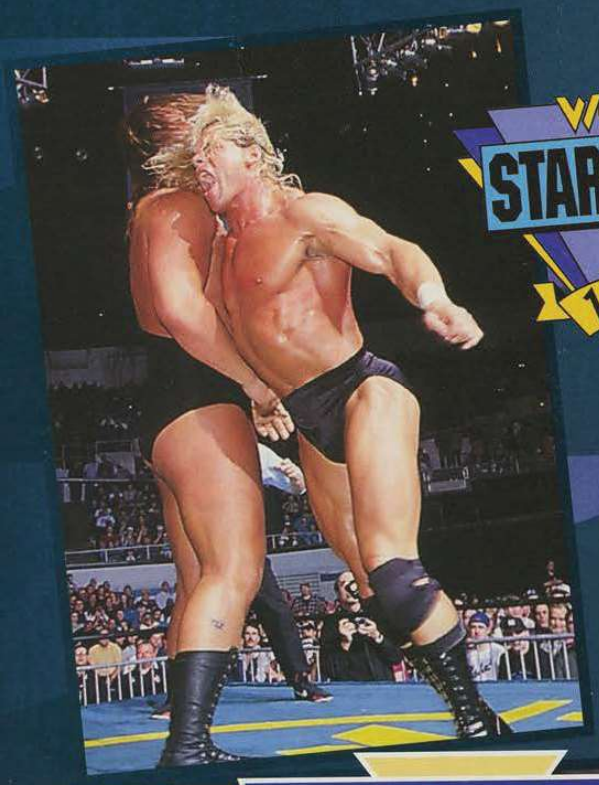

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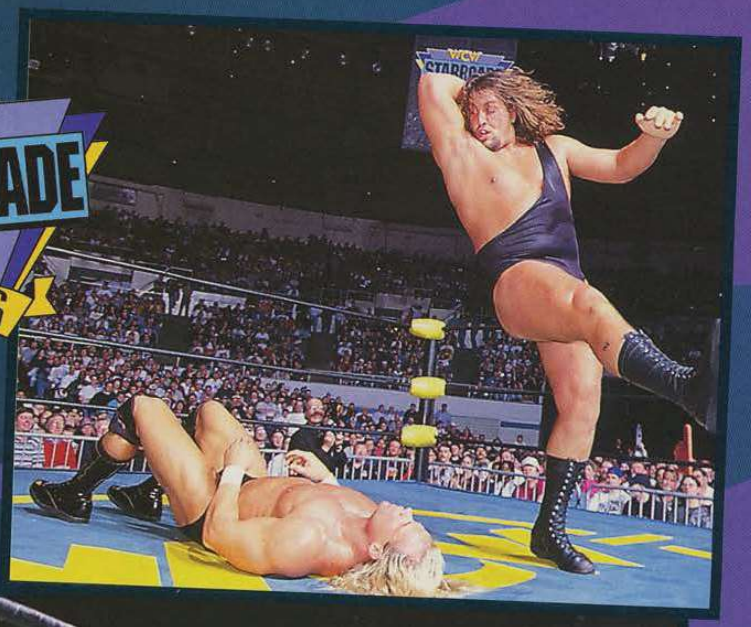
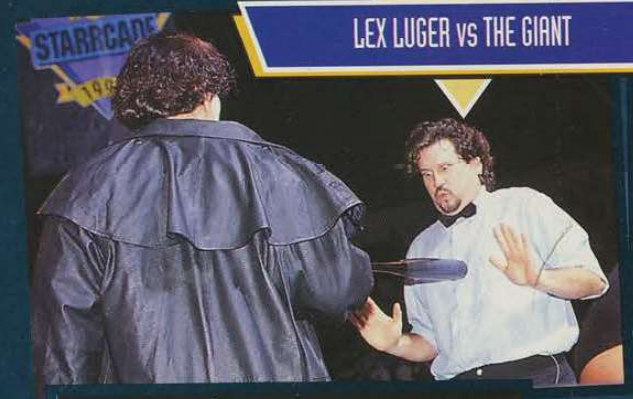
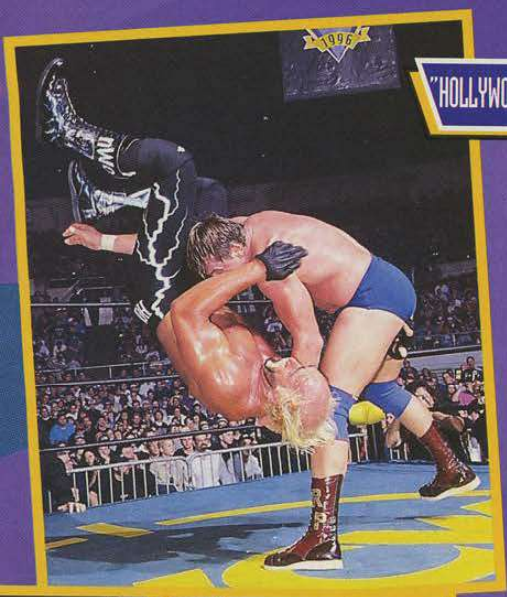


LEX LUGER vs THE GIANT

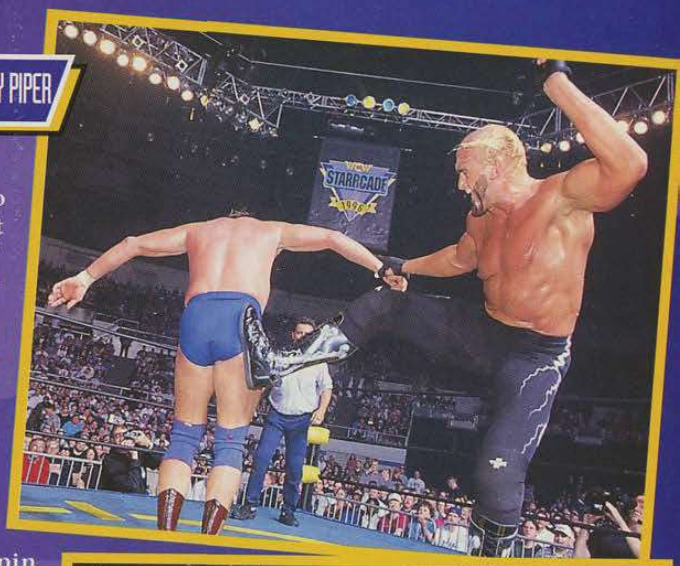


Lex Luger placed The Giant in The Torture Rack. In fact, he did it twice!! And despite interference from "Referee" Nick Patrick and The NWO's Syxx, Luger scored the victory, perhaps the greatest of his illustrious career. "There is no one with as much momentum as Lex," WCW broadcaster Tony Schiavone said. About 10 minutes into the war, referee Mark Curtis was knocked out. Luger then got The Giant in The Rack, but Patrick, who came to the ring from the back, chopped out Luger's knee. Luger regrouped and "Racked" The Giant again, until Syxx delivered a spinning kick to Luger. Enter Sting. With baseball bat. Sting chased Patrick away, left his bat in the middle of the ring, then whispered "words" in the ear of Luger and The Giant. The two combatants then went for the bat. Luger grabbed it on the ground, but The Giant stood on it. Luger low-blowed The Giant and pinned him seconds later. Earlier in the battle, The Giant dominated, stopping Luger with a running clothesline, a running elbowdrop, then a field goal of sorts. The Giant's attack also included a suplex and numerous kicks to Luger's back. "You are going to feel pain like you've never felt pain," The Giant barked. But, in the end, it was Luger's bite that proved too much.

THE WINNER: LEX LUGER (13:23).

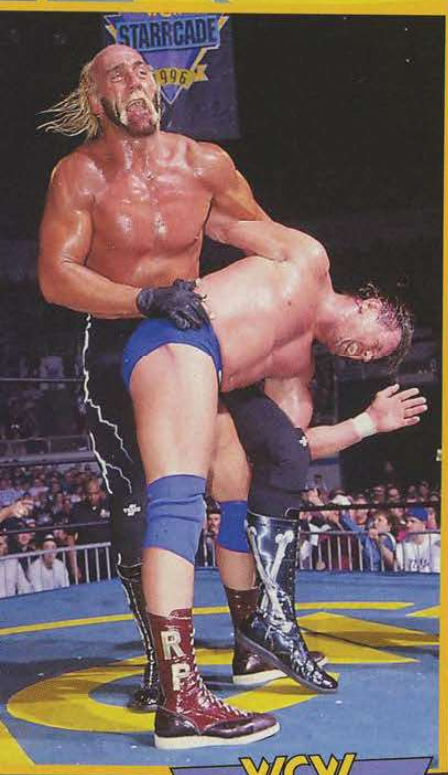


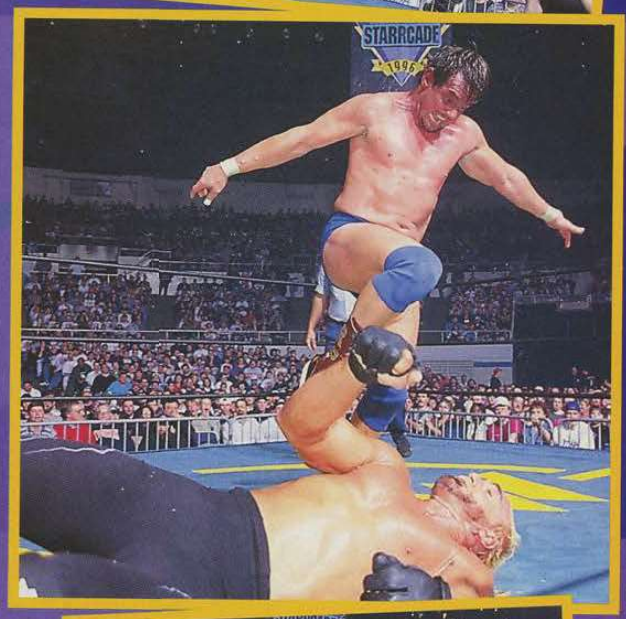
"HOLLYWOOD" HULK HOGAN vs "ROWDY" RODDY PIPER

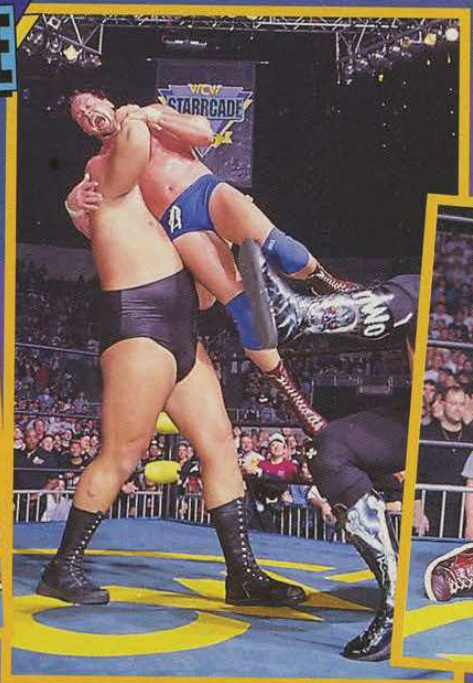


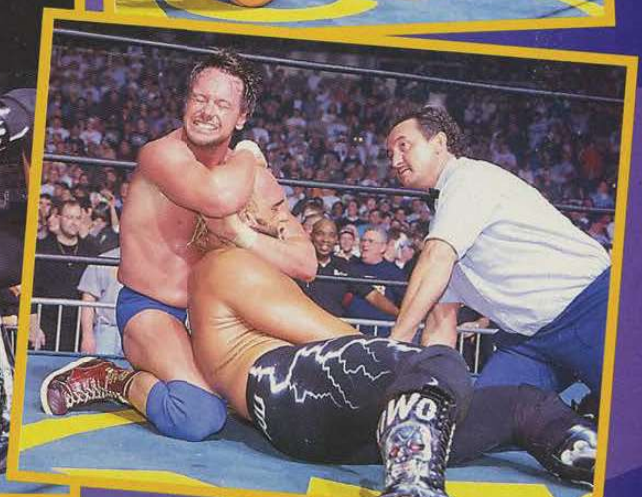
There would be no stopping the Scotsman at Starrcade 1996. "Rowdy" Roddy Piper put Hogan to sleep en route to the greatest victory in his glorious career. "Piper looks like he's in the best shape of his career," WCW broadcaster Bobby Heenan said. Piper punched Hogan early, but The NWO's kingpin countered with vicious scratches and punches. Piper delivered a perfect clothesline at 4:20, then a debilitating headlock. Piper took the action at times outside the ring, r amming Hogan into the guardrail, then whipping him with the belt from his kilt. Hogan's cheapshot attack included a rake of Piper's back, then an assault on Piper's hip at about 10:40. Piper responded with a double axehandle, then actually started pulling out Hogan's hair. Piper suplexed Hogan minutes later, then avoided Hogan's lethal legdrop. Enter The Giant. He had Piper set for the Chokeslam but Piper was able to slip out of the Chokeslam, then slapped the Sleeper on Hogan for the win. "You dropped the ball ... and don't you forget it!!!" Hogan told The Giant after the match.

THE WINNER: "ROWDY" RODDY PIPER (15:38).

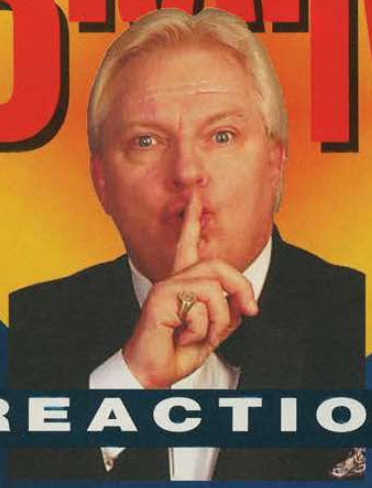




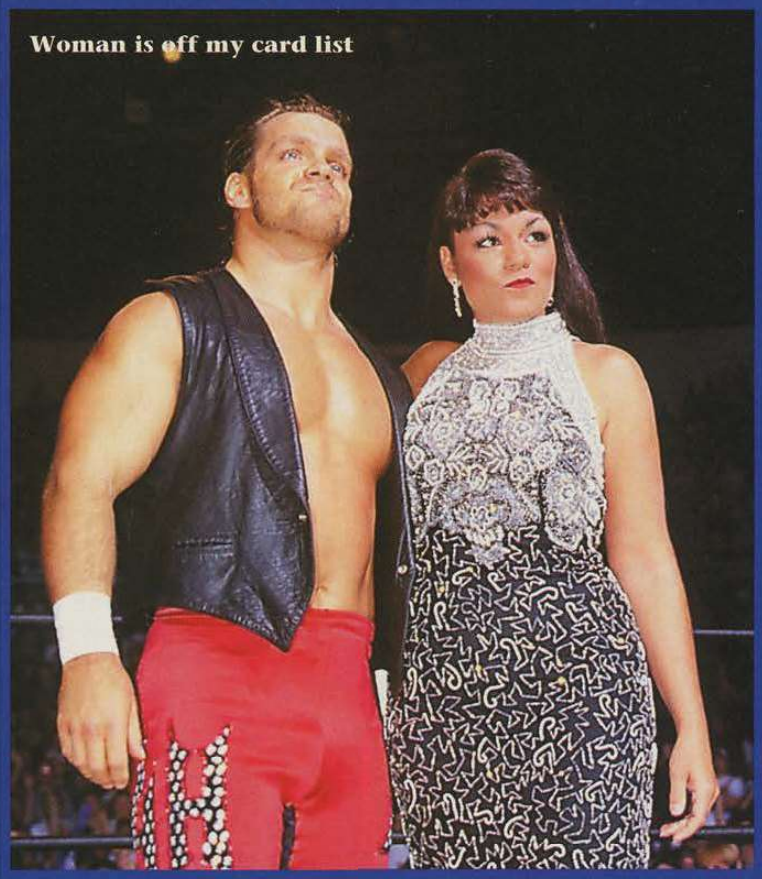




BRAIN REACTION



Bobby "The Brain" Heenan is the co-host of WCW Monday Nitro Live on TNT. He also serves as color commentator on WCW Clash and PPV broadcasts.
All the views expressed are his and his alone!



Woman is off my card list

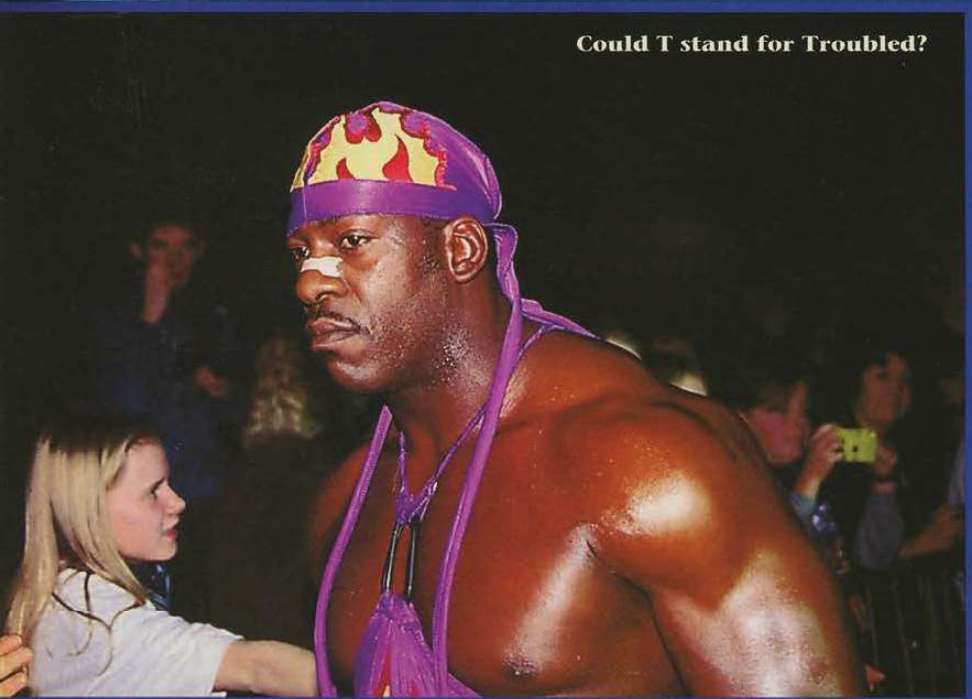
"Hollywood" Hulk Hogan, YOU LOST AT STARRCADE!!!!

Yes, sir, that was the outcome of the greatest match of the year, in the greatest pay-per-view of the year. Starrcade 1996 was a glorious day: A dress-wearing man defeated the moron of all men. Hogan, you and Eric Bischoff can say whatever you want about the match, try to steal as many copies of the tape as you want, but one thing is for certain: YOU LOST!!! Am I surprised? Hardly. I've been saying for 20-plus years what a piece of scum Hulk Hogan really is, what a fake he is, what a phoney he is, what a con man he is.

Ya know, it's kind of funny, I never thought I'd actually be cheering for a man in a skirt, but I was — and I will continue to as long as "Rowdy" Roddy Piper battles Hogan. Personally, I'd like to see them pulverize each other to the point of no return, to the point where we can't tell one from another — other than by Hogan's chrome-dome.

Enough about Hogan, on to some pleasant topics ... like me.

February means three of my favorite holidays: Lincoln's Birthday (on the 12th), Valentines Day (14th) and Washington's Birthday (17th). I told my man Woody to do a little research on Lincoln and Washington, so I can inform you humanoids with some facts, especially since most of you are too dumb to read a book. I told him I would handle the Valentines Day report myself since, well, let's face it, I'm every woman's fantasy-man. But, first, back to Lincoln and Washington. Keith Lincoln was a halfback/fullback for San Diego from 1961-66, then again for part of the 1968 American Football League (AFL) season. In between, he played for Buffalo. Mr. Lincoln was one smart chap, the inventor of air for footballs. Before turning pro, Mr. LINCOLN attended WASHINGTON State University, a school into Pullman Steam Engines. As for Valentines Day, I'm not sure if I want to spend the evening with Woman, Debra McMichael or Sister Sherri ... but at least I've chopped my list of choices down — from 4,287 applicants — to those three. Woman is stunning, but dating Chris Benoit and with Kevin Sullivan in the



Could T stand for Troubled?

picture, I might want to stay away. Debra is gorgeous, a beauty with one strong trait: Humility. Sister Sherri is radiant, a knockout who can really knock you out. Oh, well, I guess I'll decide by whoever brings me more presents.

SCOOP CITY!!! I spoke with Sting after the Monday Nitro at the United Center in Chicago. Here's what he had to say, and I quote: "..." That's why I'm the best broadcast-journalist in the business.

Has anyone ever seen anything as crazy as these new Mexican Mini Superstars? I know I haven't. I watch them and think I'm baby-sitting a riot at a day care center. Let's see, you've got The Masked Slackard, The 8-headed Ocelot, Gee I Wanna Grow-Up To Be Eric Estrada and The Morbid Pirate. Who's who among those pip-squeaks? Who really cares. Personally, I think they all should go back home to Ciudad Juarez and return to their day jobs, as the makers of Dunkin' Munchkins. Gee, can you imagine what fun they'd have at Disney World. They wouldn't be able to go on any of the rides and could get slapped in the face by the tail of that walking rat.

Is Rey Mysterio, Jr., nothing more than The Giant of the Mexican Mini division?

Can anyone guess referee Mark Curtis' day-job? He's a Mexican Mini wrestler.

There have been a lot of rumors circulating about the mist that The Ultimo Dragon spews before his match. Well, my man Woodrow, in our never-ending search for truth, justice and fairness to (Ric) Flair, scooped up some of the green slime after a recent match and had Dr. Haus Vommett examine the sticky substance. His report showed that Ultimo Dragon is having after shocks from Mrs. Guerrero's burritos ... which he ate in 1987.

Is Jerry Sags the Nasty Boy with one tooth? Or is it Brian Knobs? Who cares; it doesn't matter. My point is, I keep hearing rumors that the two are leaving the sport of wrestling and, yes, I have been able to confirm that report. Brian is opening a furniture store with Indiana University basketball coach Bobby Knight. Their slogan: You buy the couch, we'll throw-in the chair. Jerry, on the other hand, is studying to become a dentist. Goodbye, good luck, good riddance to both!!

Does anyone know who or what lives in Chris Jericho's mangy locks? Just curious because I've seen small leopards walking through the locker rooms after se veral Jericho matches.

I hate to say this, but I will: I'm upset Col. Robert Parker signed on as the manager of The Amazing French Canadians. Now don't get me wrong, the Colonel is a dear, close, personal, longtime friend, just like Jacques Rougeau and Carl Ouellet. The problem is, Col. Parker will no longer speak English. Only French, he says. Granted French is one of the 18 languages I speak, but, I occasionally get confused by the exchange rate. Is it seven pesos to the dollar, or seven dollars to the peso?

Have you noticed a change in the demeanor of Booker T from Harlem Heat. Never the happiest man in the world, he is now positively the most miserable. I wonder what has changed in his life recently that has affected him so badly.

The folks in Texas, I am told, will be honoring hometown hero Dusty Rhodes in the near-future. How? By renaming the state's official language. Texans will not speak English anymore, as if they did in the past. Now, it will strictly be Hick.

Chris Benoit is a changed man since "hitching" with Woman. Can you imagine what their kids will look like? The girls will beat up the boys and the boys will beat up their dads' friends.

I want to go out on a limb right now: By the end of 1997, Disco Inferno's leglock finisher, The Last Dance, will be as deadly as the figure four leglock. Disco asked if he could practice on me and I normally would have refused, but, I remember how last year he taught me three new dance moves, so I said what-the-heck. Let me tell you, I asked for the break after 1.8 seconds ... it's that painful. Trust me on this one.

MORE MYSTERIO: I reported a few months back about how Rey, Jr., got his belly-button pierced, then how he got a tattoo on his left arm. Well, he now also has a tattoo, on his right arm. Evidently he's on the Hunt for Red October and believes Dennis Rodman is a prime candidate.

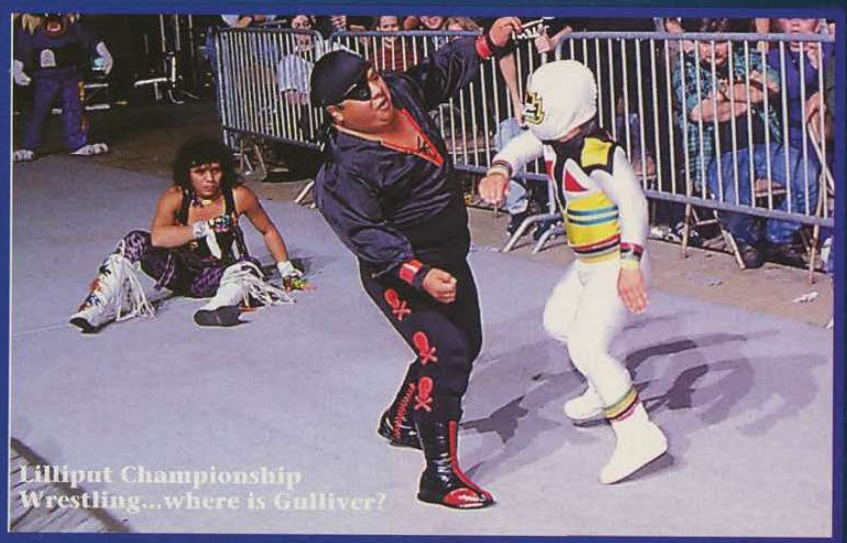
Lex Luger: All that muscle, all that power, all that strength, all that stamina, all the endurance ... and not a barber within miles.

Billy Kidman was to wrestle at the Monday Nitro in Chicago on Jan. 20, but, his mommy made him stay home. He was grounded for not finishing his vegetables before Glee Club practice. Gee, if Billy was smart, he would have picked up the phone, called his fellow Pennsylvania Penguin, "Flounder" Mark Madden, and offered him some food. Like "Flounder" would have refused.

Speaking of Chicago, Ric Flair was in The Windy City Jan. 8, on a publicity tour for the then-upcoming Nitro. He attended that evening's Blackhawks-Edmonton Oilers game with his pal General Bruce MacArthur, he of Wirtz family fame. Ric did one of those between-period shooting challenges from center ice that you've probably seen. And guess what? Wwwwhhooo!! The Nature Boy scored, as usual!! Also that day, RF stopped by WSCR-Radio for a chit-chat with afternoon hosts Dan Jiggetts and Mike North. Jiggetts played for the Chicago Bears from 1976-82, while North was a former hot dog stand worker-turned-sportscaster. Gee, North was talking to the wrong guy; Hogan is the wiener of professional wrestling.

Well, humanoids, that's it for another month, thank goodness.

The Brain



Lilliput Championship Wrestling...where is Gulliver?

Deb's Delight

Shortly after her morning manicure, and before the afternoon session with her personal hair stylist, The Queen of WCW, Debra McMichael, boarded a plane for a Los Angeles meeting with Robin Leach. The four-hour journey west was an experience in humility, or a lack thereof, as Ross Forman of WCW Magazine found out first-hand.

The aroma of homemade cookies filled the air and, shortly after boarding their private, personal jet, the flight attendant offered the cookies. Not just any cookies, but fresh, warm, Famous Amos-be-jealous chocolate cookies, steam rising from each chip of the calories-galore creations, each about as big as a frisbee.

"Oh, good, I love these cookies. They are my absolute favorite," said Debra McMichael, who was chomping before she even sat down. (And onto her second cookie before the flight departed Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.)

"I know there are a lot of girls who could not — or at least should not — eat these because they would balloon, but, I guess I am naturally gifted, a person with an incredibly-high metabolism. Hey, I come from good stock, you know; I'm very lucky.

"Take, for instance, Woman. If she even smelled cookies, she'd probably gain a few pounds. And I know first-hand that that girl has been expanding lately. She really takes up a lot of room in the locker room."

Debra McMichael, the socialite of WCW, has become one of the most obnoxious butterflies to ever wear a pageant crown. She is self-centered and self-serving, a blue-blood with more money than Michael Jordan.

"As I was saying, I really don't have any feelings toward Woman. I can take her or leave her. She doesn't really bother me, mostly because she's not even in my league. How can she bother me when she's beneath me?" McMichael said. "We're saying Rolls Royce to, oh, maybe a Volkswagen.

"Personally, I love February. My Steve always makes me the cutest little Valentine's Day card — and he usually gives me a box of imported Belgian pralines from our favorite shop, Leonidas Pralines, in Skokie, Ill. However, February has the potential to be a terrible month for Woman, what with all of the Valentine's candy out there. She probably won't get any cards, but will buy plenty of chocolate. Not that she needs it. I don't know for certain, but, I'd bet her dress size has expanded, oh, two or three sizes over the past month.

"As I've said, I have no problem with her; she's got the problem with me, just because of my beauty. But, I'm used to that, what with my prep school experience and all of the beauty pageants."

There's no denying Debra's glamour, her beauty is striking, goddess-like. Heads turn (toward her) everywhere she walks, granted those same people turn away when she talks, but, that's how it goes. Debra is a debutante whose name is bandied around among the aristocrats like, say, The Kennedy's and The Donald's. She is a Southern belle with smarts (an elite prep school education in upstate New York, then a degree from the University of Alabama).

"I think the world is finally starting to realize how strong of a person I am," Debra said. "The fans love me because I'm the only one who speaks her mind in professional wrestling. Why's that? Well, I was raised in a very wealthy family and I've won every beauty pageant I've entered. Oh, yes, I have heard one or two fans boo me from time to time, but with those people, especially the men who boo, the thing is, they know good and well that I am the kind of girl they would have loved to marry, or at least date. But, they knew not to ask me out because, sure enough, they would have gotten turned down. They're just jealous of me, of my beauty."

Debra has proven her status among the Venus-like women of the world on numerous occasions. She certainly is NOT just talk. Her pulchritude started early. At age 4, to be exact. That's when she won the Little Miss Magnolia title. "My mother told me at a young age that beauty pageants are a good thing for a woman, and I believe her."

Debra has competed in more than 200

pageants since, and won each, so she says. Let's see, there's the Miss Crimson Tide award from Alabama, the Mrs. Illinois crown in 1987, the Mrs Texas title in 1992 and, most recently, the Queen of Beauty in 1996.

"I'm very proud of them all, especially since, in each, there were at least 150 opponents," Debra said. "The real reason I enter a contest is, of course, the prizes. I have won millions of dollars in pageants, at least 10 cars, all of which have been given away to family members, fur coats, diamonds and countless all-expense-paid trips.

"I'm kind of in a social class that most people cannot relate with."

That's why Debra has not held a job for more than a few months. In fact, most of her 'Bama friends were shocked to learn she actually accepted a full-time job with American Airlines years ago. "I've worked a couple of jobs over the years, but every time my mother would yell at me. She always said that the quality of person that I am, I should not have to work. All of the jobs I have had, she has made me quit. She always said, 'It is not correct for a lady like me to be in that position.'

"It's kind of like, say, the 50 Most Beautiful People, published annually by People Magazine. Of course I have been called and asked to appear in the listings every year, but, my agent would not return their call because, to be honest, the people in that poll, they just are not in my category. Plus, my mother said it was not a good idea to appear in that.

"You know, my whole life I've had people wanting to be like me. I take that as a compliment, an honor unto itself."

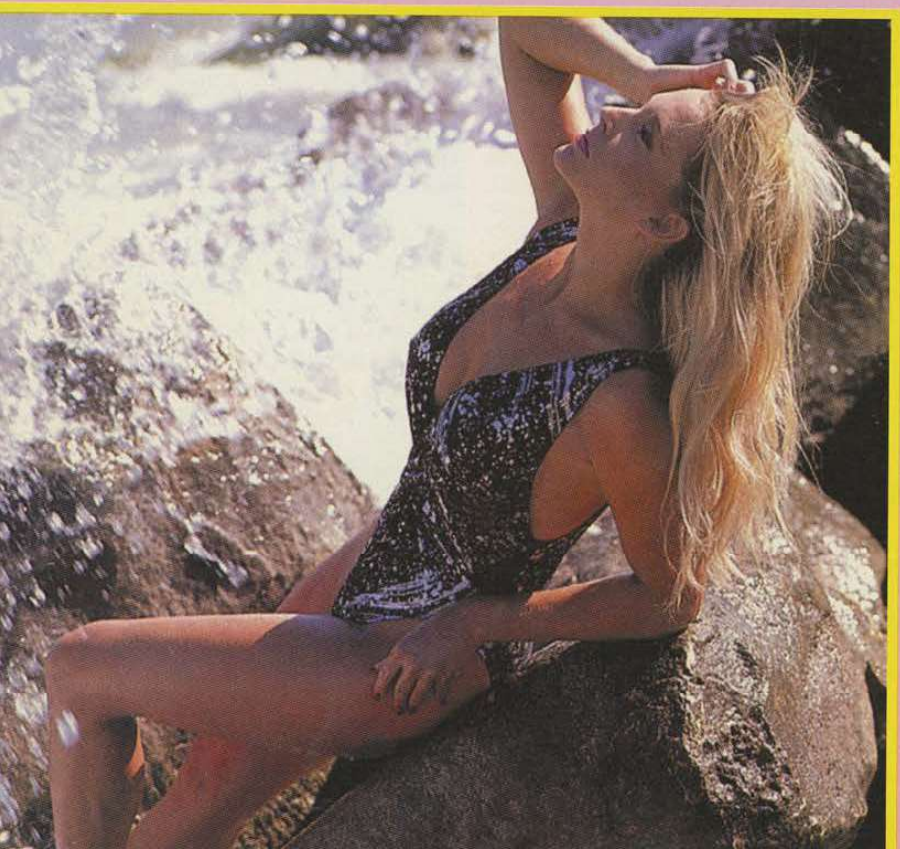
TURBULENCE, ABOUT 90 MINUTES INTO THE FLIGHT. THE SEAT BELT LIGHT GOES ON. "EXCUSE ME, WOULD SOMEONE PLEASE FASTEN MY SEAT BELT FOR ME ... I DO NOT WANT TO CHIP A NAIL," DEBRA SAID.

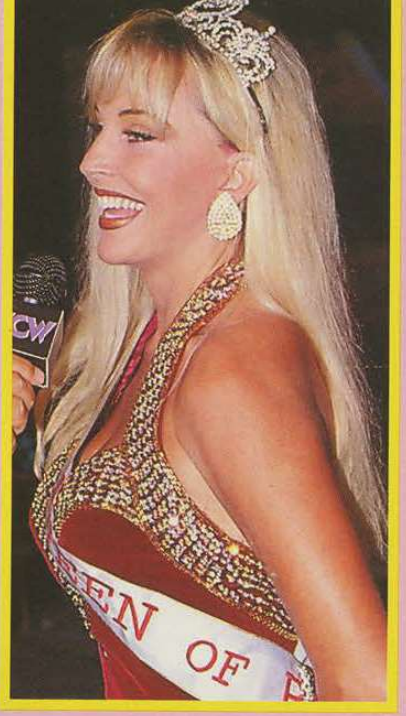
Debra's savings account has been rumored to be in excess of $50 million; however, she will not confirm nor deny that amount. She says it should not be anyone's concern. Suffice to say, she's loaded. Debra came from old money; her dad and grandfather were land proprietors in the South and Steve played 12-years in the National Football League.

"Do I lead a spoiled life? No. I lead the life everyone in America WANTS to lead," Debra said. "Think about it, I have my own personal fashion designer, Aylce, out of Chicago. She hand makes each gown I wear. And, yes, each gown costs about $5,000 apiece and of course I only wear a gown once because, when you're in the public eye, you just cannot be seen in the same gown twice. I'm also very educated and cultured; my favorite books are 'The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway' and 'John Gielgud directs Richard Burton in Hamlet.' I love that book. I go to the theater in New York quite often and thoroughly relish classical music. At sporting events, I am at home in skyboxes — no where else. Sporting events such as polo, that is."

LUNCH. OFFERINGS INCLUDE FILET MIGNON AND LOBSTER TAIL. DEBRA CHOOSES THE FILET, WITH A BAKED POTATO. SHE DROWNS THE POTATO IN BUTTER AND SOUR CREAM, THEN ORDERS A HOT FUDGE SUNDAE — WITH EXTRA HOT FUDGE — FOR DESSERT.

"Ya know, I keep hearing people talk about problems within The Four Horsemen, but I'm confident everything will work out. Even in the tightest of families there can be problems. This is only a minor tiff," Debra said. "Don't worry!!!"





Debra was more than willing to offer her two-cents on a few WCW personalities:

CHRIS BENOIT

"I think it was terrible for him and Woman to run around Germany like they did. This affair, I think it is awful, no class."

RIC FLAIR

"He's Ric. Nobody can be Ric, but Ric. We love him."

SISTER SHERRI

"She should not put as much dye in her hair. She leaves that dark dye in and it always drips around the dressing room, and it gets on my hands. Then I have to have a special appointment with my manicurist to clean it off, and that takes about two hours. Two hours that I usually do not have because I am very, very busy."

MADUSA

"That girl, she really ... I just don't know what to think about her. For one thing, I think she really wants to be a man; she just doesn't know that right now."

STEVE McMICHAEL

"He's wonderful. I just wish all of the ladies out there had a wonderful husband like I do. He's the most perfect human being in the world."

LEE MARSHALL (DEBRA'S MAIDEN NAME IS MARSHALL AND SHE CLAIMS TO BE COUSINS WITH LEE. HE VEHEMENTLY DENIES ANY RELATIONSHIP.)

"That's why he and I can speak so well in front of the camera; it runs in the family. He wants to keep it quiet, and that's OK with me, I guess, but he's still my little cuzzy-wuzzy."

THE LOVELY ELIZABETH

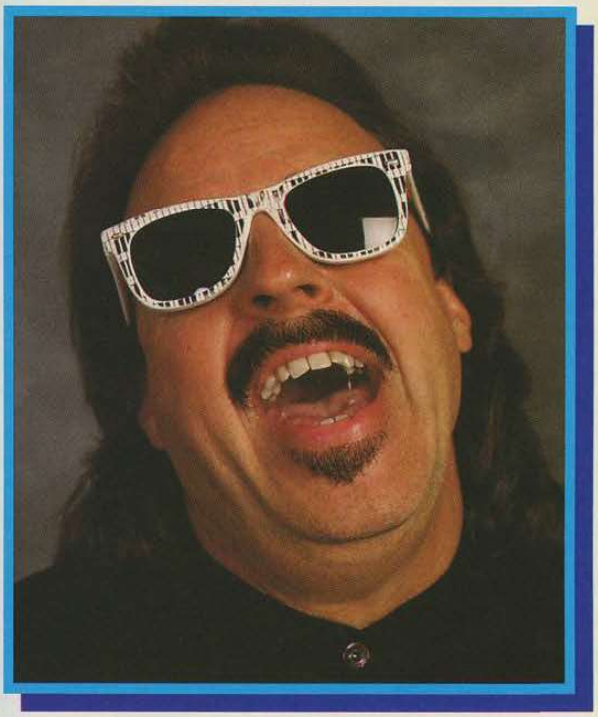
"That girl needs a makeover. That poor-thing, she's lost in the '70s."

FACE THE FANS

The list reads like a Who's Who in the sport of professional wrestling: Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, The Giant and Bret Hart, for starters. Then you've got The Funk Brothers (Terry and Dory), The Rougeau Brothers (Jacques and Raymond) and even The Glamour Girls. And who can forget Ted DiBiase, M. Wallstreet, The Honky Tonk Man, Greg "The Hammer" Valentine, Earthquake, Typhoon, Dino Bravo, Kamala and oh-so-many more. There's also Angelo Poffo, Uncle Elmer, The Missing Link and The Moondogs.

"Mouth of the South" Jimmy Hart has managed 'em all.

The colorful Hart, never at a loss for words — even if they are a bit butchered from the truth — sat down to answer questions about his career as one of professional wrestling most illustrious managers. The questions — courtesy of Keri Alexander, of Canton, Ohio — span Hart's careers, wrestling and music. He was, remember, the lead singer of the 1960s group, The Gentry's, which had a million-selling record and appearances on The Ed Sullivan Show, among other honors.



DO YOU FEEL YOU HAVE REVIVED THE DUNGEON OF DOOM?

"No, not really. I think it goes back to "Taskmaster" Kevin Sullivan. When I first broke into professional wrestling, one of my first protegees was Kevin Sullivan. And I am the only manager Kevin Sullivan has ever had. Well, we made a promise then that, regardless of how many years it would take, we would dominate professional wrestling. Well, I think that dream, that promise, that goal that Kevin and I set is finally coming true. Kevin and I have surrounded ourselves in The Dungeon of Doom with some of the greatest talent ever in this sport. Think about it, The Giant came from The Dungeon of Doom. So did Big Bubba. And now we've got guys like Konan and The Faces of Fear, among others."

WHAT IS YOUR EXACT ROLE WITHIN THE HIERARCHY OF THE DUNGEON OF DOOM?

"Jimmy Hart, like he has always been in wrestling, is always full of enthusiasm. I am never a downer, am always optimistic. With a lot of managers, they just do a lot of talking, and when it comes to action, they are the first to hit the highway. Not so with Jimmy Hart. I am always in the trenches with my men, whether it's a championship match or a middle-of-the-road match. I am always there for my guys, always wheeling and dealing."

WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADD TO THE DUNGEON?

"Right now, there are a few wrestlers who we — that's "Taskmaster" Kevin Sullivan and myself — would like to add to The Dungeon. However, I do not, and will not, make a verbal commitment because this magazine is read by about 750,000 fans and we do not want anything to get out erroneously. That might hurt our chances of signing those wrestlers, especially if another manager like, say, Col. Parker is interested in signing them as well."

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON THE OTHER MANAGERS?

"I think they're all great, although there's only one Jimmy Hart. At least everyone but Sister Sherri. The only time she should be allowed out of the house is Halloween, because her face could scare any pumpkin. I think Sonny Onoo has really stepped forward in the past year or so as a manager. He has brought some of the best Japanese wrestlers to the United States — and he's guided them to championship gold. Col. Robert Parker is a man who works 24-hours-a-day to manage champions. Col. Parker did so much for Harlem Heat, then they ditched him ... but he'll get even with them. I know he'll lead Bunkhouse Buck and "Dirty" Dick Slater to the top of the tag team title picture once again. Plus, Col. Parker has The Amazing French Canadians in the title picture, not that that should surprise anyone."

WHO IS THE BEST WRESTLER YOU HAVE EVER MANAGED, AND THE BEST TAG TEAM?

"I would have to say the greatest singles wrestler I have ever managed was Hulk Hogan because he always prepared for every match he went into. He was working 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You never had to wake him up in the morning to get going. He was always the first person up, usually already working out in the gym. Hulk Hogan always was on time; he always was dependable. I guess that's why he'll always be the biggest name ever in professional wrestling. So, then, you might be wondering, 'Why did you turn your back on him?' Well, I just felt, at that particular time, that I needed to get something out of Hulk Hogan ... and that was for Jimmy Hart to take a step where Jimmy Hart needed to go, with Kevin Sullivan in The Dungeon of Doom.

"As for the greatest tag team of all time, well, that's impossible to answer. Why? Think about it, I now manage The Faces of Fear (Meng and The Barbarian), an awesome team, just like the other 25 teams I have managed in the past. From the Funk Brothers to The Hart Foundation, Jimmy Hart has always managed winners."

WHO WAS THE FIRST PERSON YOU MANAGED?

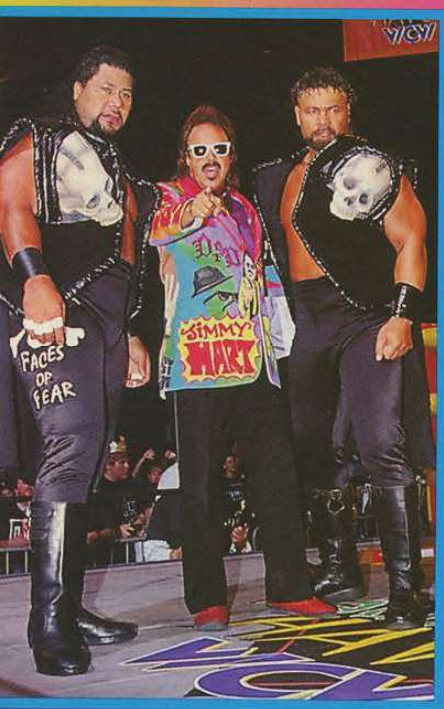
"Jerry 'The King' Lawler."

OVER THE YEARS, WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST SURPRISE?

"That Jimmy Hart has not gotten killed in the sport of professional wrestling, especially for my size and always being ringside as I am. But I have been injured on plenty of occasions; I've had a broken hand, a broken jaw, broken ribs and numerous amounts of stitches."

IS THERE ONE REGRET FROM YOUR CAREER?

"For the fans to not know how truly talented Jimmy Hart really is. Think about it ... Jimmy Hart writes songs; Jimmy Hart sings; and, above all,



Jimmy Hart manages some of the biggest names in the history of professional wrestling."

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT?

"Winning the Manager of the Year Award five times in a row."

DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A SNEAK?

"What do you mean, a sneak? A lot of people accuse Jimmy Hart of knocking people out with his megaphone. But is it my fault that the wrestlers are so clumsy that they trip over the ring apron, fall into my megaphone and knock themselves out? What are my men supposed to do when their opponent is on his back in the middle of the ring? Wake 'em up? Of course not! Pin 'em!! I am so sick and tired of hearing people say that Jimmy Hart teaches his men to win-at-any-cost. Of course not. We are all Christian athletes."

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT RETIREMENT?

"Never. As long as there's professional wrestling, there always will be a Jimmy Hart. After all, who are all of the other managers in the world going to have to look up to or copy themselves after?"

WE KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR MUSIC TALENT, BUT WHAT MUSIC DO YOU ENJOY? LIKE, FOR INSTANCE, WHEN YOU ARE AT HOME; WHAT DO YOU LISTEN TO THEN?

"A variety. From Jimmy Buffet to AC-DC to Metallica. But, most of all, I like those oldies-but-goodies, such as Paul Revere & The Raiders, Sonny & Cher, Ricky Nelson, The Turtles and The Birds."

IS IT IRONIC THAT, WHEN YOU WERE WITH THE GENTRY'S, THERE ALSO WAS A GROUP THEN KNOWN AS THE OUTSIDERS?

"That is a coincidence ... 'Time Won't Let Me.'

"The Outsiders — of music and wrestling fame — are nothing but a bunch of one-hit-wonders."

WHAT ARE YOUR TRUE FEELINGS ABOUT MEAN GENE OKERLUND?

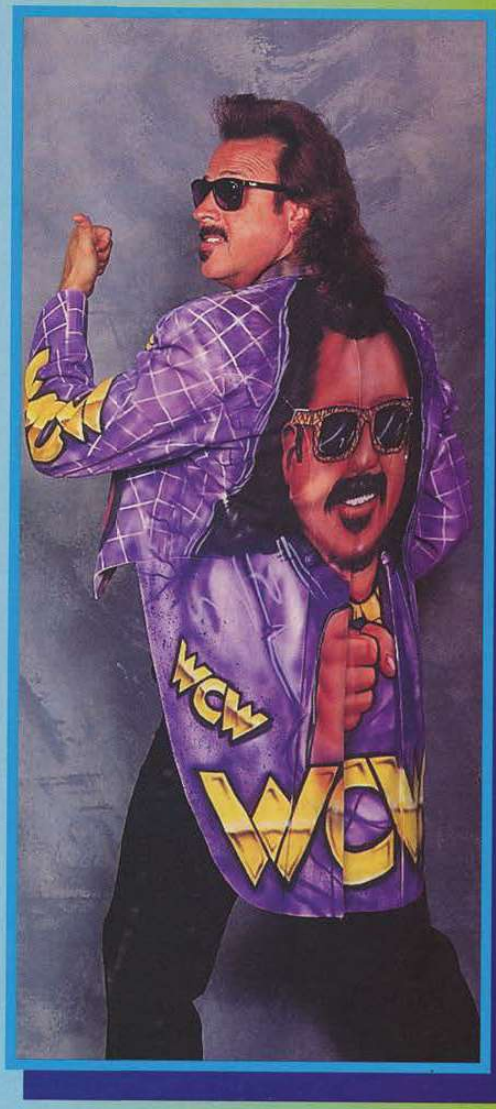
"He's nothing but a wagon-jumper. If there's a winning team, you can bet Gene Okerlund ain't too far behind. If The Dungeon of Doom is doing well, Gene Okerlund is on our side. If The Four Horsemen are doing well, he's on their side. If Hulk Hogan is doing well, he's on Hogan's side. As I said, he's a back-stabber, nothing more."

IS THERE ANYONE NOW WHO, IF YOU ABSOLUTELY HAD TO, COULD BEAT IN A MATCH?

"Yes, of course ... Wild Cat Willie."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?

"Mashed potatoes."



COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE: PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THAT I ...

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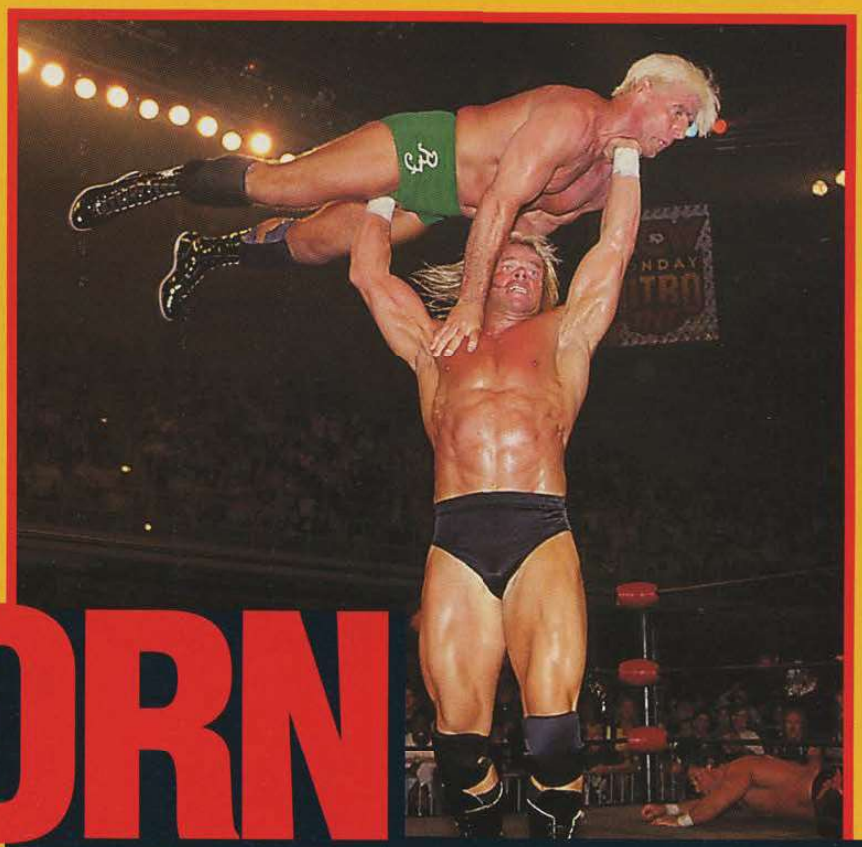


HAVING BEEN HANDED THE BALL [OR BAT] BY STING, LEX LUGER IS BEHIND THE REVIVAL OF WCW.

The hands of time tell the true story about the the transition of Lex Luger, pro football player turned pro wrestler.

About a week before the mid-May, 1990, cage match in the main event of Capital Combat with the then-World Heavyweight Champion Ric Flair, Luger got a staff infection and was hospitalized. Tony Schiavone went to interview Luger, then the U.S. Champion, in his hospital bed and met "an arrogant, confident, incredibly cocky" superstar, one who thought he was the greatest thing since sliced bread. The interview never aired on WCW TV but, to this day, Schiavone hasn't forgotten Luger's attitude. (Luger ended up winning the match in 17:21 by disqualification — outside interference from Ole Anderson.)

Spring forward: Labor Day, 1995. Minneapolis, Minnesota. With thousands in attendance at the Mall of America, and millions watching on TNT, WCW Monday Nitro makes its debut. Luger walks out, shocking the wrestling foundation as, hours earlier, he had been employed by the World Wrestling Federation. "I can remember talking to him in Minneapolis," Schiavone said, "He looked great on the outside, but was so nervous; I never will forget that." The reception was, at best, mixed for the megastar who, unquestionably, was making a 'career move.'

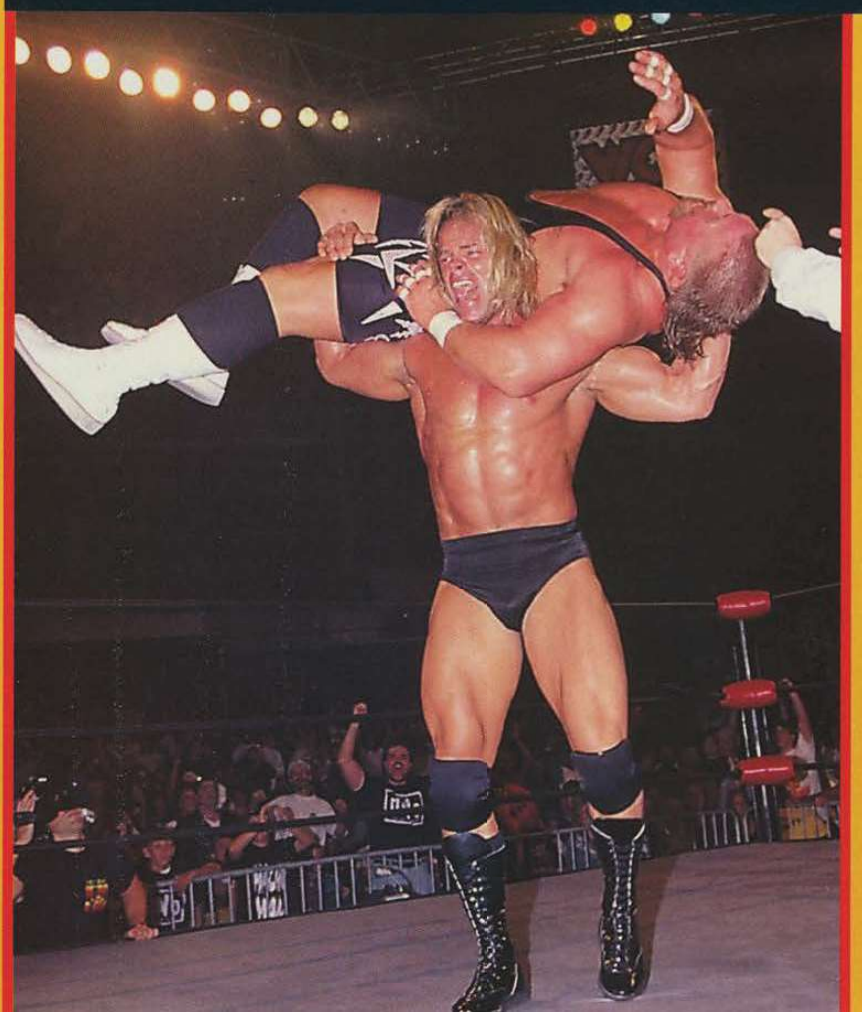
Continue forward: Jan. 20, 1997, about 18,000 fans welcome their hometown hero to the United Center in Chicago for WCW Monday Nitro. Luger walks out and there isn't a hostile fan in the stadium. Luger received the same UC reception reserved for another tenant, Michael Jordan.

"Today's Lex Luger is not the same person we saw at Capital Combat. He is no longer cocky, but rather, determined. Lex Luger has grown into a true superstar in our sport," Schiavone said.

"What we are seeing probably is best described as, a rebirth of Lex Luger," WCW broadcaster Chris Cruise said. "That's the most apt way of putting it."

Added broadcaster Mike Tenay, "You can see the focus, the intensity in Lex Luger's eyes. He is a totally-new package."

Luger, the greatest physical specimen this sport has to offer, has never looked better. In every possible way: Physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. You name it, Luger has improved. He is more focused, more mature, more determined. No longer is Luger heading in a million different directions; he now is totally focused on his activities in the ring. Lex Luger is, without question, at the peak of his career, at the pinnacle of a



career any green grappler would love to reach. He has fan support and respect from everyone in the sport.

Lex Luger is a champion, even if he doesn't have gold around his waist.

"Lex Luger has never looked as good," Schiavone said. "What you see is, a great athlete who has grown up."

Said broadcaster Lee Marshall, "We not only are witnessing the rebirth of Lex Luger as a person, but the rebirth of Lex Luger as an athlete who recognizes that, basically, he can have it all. And that was always Lex Luger's problem. I once said that, if Lex Luger wanted to be an Olympic athlete, he probably would be covered top-to-bottom in medals, but, since Day One in Professional Wrestling, he has had a problem staying focused. In fact, I have chided him about that fact on interviews. But, after his match with The Giant at Starrcade 1996, I spoke with him, and the very first thing he said to me was, 'Was that focused enough for you?'

"Lex Luger has stopped being cocky, and replaced it with confidence. And this Lex Luger really has the chance to leave a mark on this sport ... and I think Lex finally understands that."

Luger has long been the student who brings home the report card that says: Not living up to his potential. That always was the story, the knock on Lex Luger. For his entire career.

Not any more.

"No one in the history of this sport had more potential than Lex Luger, and no one failed to live up to it more than Lex Luger. Until whatever clicked in his mind and body that caused him to realize that his time was, right now, the present," Marshall said. "Lex Luger's competitive drive is flowing that's for sure; it's kind of like a gusher."

THE UNDERACHIEVER

Despite a wealth of title reigns, Lex Luger has long been dubbed the sports ultimate underachiever, a competitor who, for some reason, has failed to live up to the hype. Accurate or not, the label has been there, a thorn in the side of an incredibly-gifted athlete. Luger is the supreme can't-miss superstar, it was said upon his arrival in wrestling. He was like a team's No. 1 draft pick who could rush for 1,500 yards as a rookie and score 25 touchdowns, but, if he didn't lead them to the Super Bowl, his accomplishments were for nought. Lex Luger is the Robert Downey, Jr., of pro wrestling.

"I felt I had accomplished quite a bit in WCW (in my first stint), but, somehow, in the fan's eyes, at that period in time in my career, for whatever reason, whatever I accomplished was not enough," Luger said. "However, I had achieved quite a bit. I was a four-time U.S. Heavyweight Champion, a tag team champion, a World Heavyweight Champion. But people still felt I was an underachiever, a guy who hadn't reached his potential. And maybe they were right, I don't know.

"When I started my career, people had these huge expectations for me and I performed well, but maybe not up to what a lot of people expected of me. I think there are a lot of reasons for that. One, it is so competitive in professional wrestling. By having a football background, everyone expected great things from me, even though I was a newcomer to the sport going against guys with loads of experience, like Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan, guys who had been in the ring for 10- or 15-years before I even got involved. Second, success happened quickly for me. A lot of other wrestlers over the years worked smaller regional territories. They really paid their dues, travelling from city to city, maybe driving 800 miles night after night, working in small high school gyms to gain the experience before reaching 'the big time of wrestling.' But Lex Luger came onto the scene and almost immediately was in 'the big time.' The perception, even from other wrestlers, was, I had not paid my dues, that I was gaining success based on my potential rather than my performance. I do think the success I achieved at a less-mature time in my life, 10-or-so years ago when I was breaking in, yeah, it does go to your head a little bit; you think the success is because of you, how great you are, how wonderful you are, and you think the fans love you because you are so wonderful. As you mature, I think you realize that, instead, it is a combination of things, a lot of hard-work, match-time, experience (wins and losses); handling victory with graciousness and handling defeat with a proper attitude."

Luger added: "When I broke into professional wrestling, I think I was labelled as a wrestler with all the potential, but I didn't have all the experience to go along with it and, because of that, I acquired that label as an underachiever in spite of the success I had."

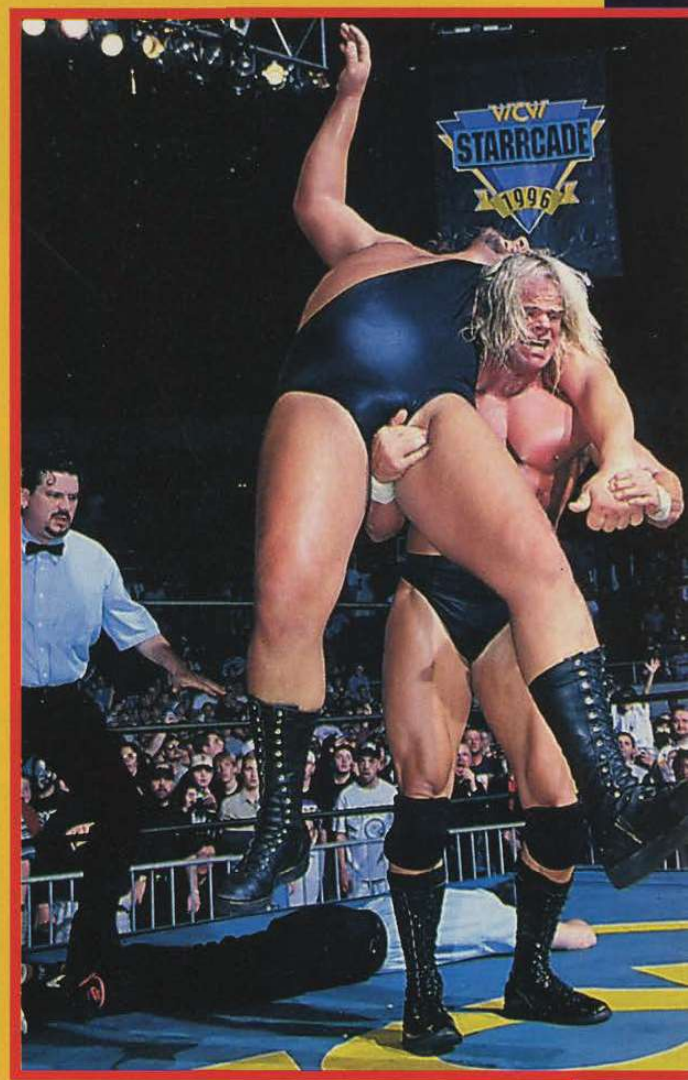
No one ever has higher expectations for Lex Luger than Lex Luger. He is very self-conscience, a man who never settles for a sub-100 percent effort. Prima Donna? Nope, although he has had every reason to be. Luger is simply a blue collar wrestler battling forces of all kinds each and every week — not just on a pay-per-view or on a time-to-time basis.

"When you first arrive on the scene and enjoy some success, I think it goes to your head a little bit. Perhaps that would account for my inconsistencies as far as being a fan favorite or a rule breaker," Luger said. "I think the fans have come to realize that Lex Luger isn't just some genetic wonder. I don't feel there are any athletes, in any walk of life, who work harder than I do, especially in terms of conditioning."

Luger has, in fact, changed his workout regimen in recent years. He used to just lift weights, courtesy his football background and the "Bigger is better" Theory. Luger is now about 20-pounds lighter, toned to perfection, with added quickness and movement as proof. Luger has, believe it or not, worked off some body fat that was present in the early-1990s, yet retained every ounce of muscle. Luger's gym time now includes extensive cardio vascular training, learned from — surprise, surprise — "Nature Boy" Ric Flair, the wrestler long labelled the "60-minute man."

The StairMaster and exercise bike, Luger has found them a perfect fit with his traditional weight training, along with extra flexing and stretching before and after each workout. Placing The Giant in The Torture Rack at Starrcade says wonders about Luger's power, not to mention his determination and perseverance.

"There's no doubt that Lex Luger has a magnificent body, always has," Marshall said. "Early on in his career, I think that body did intimidate a lot of opponents and, partially because of that, he was able to roll up a lot of victories because people mentally gave up before they actually locked up with Lex just figuring anyone that huge was immortal. Now he's winning on skill, not other's fear."



Said Luger, "No one is harder on Lex Luger than Lex Luger. I'm very, very hard on myself; that's what drives me to improve because I'm never really happy where I'm at; I always want to get better.

THE FANS

Luger has had a love-hate relationship with those who buy the tickets. He has been the All-American kid cheered like apple pie and also booed like the evil stepchild. Enter The New World Order and combine that with Luger's winning streak ... voila, fandomism.

"I think the fans see me as a guy who is trying to carry on. There is a lot of tradition from all of the wrestlers of the past, those who represented the NWA, then the WCW. I think some of the fans really identify me with WCW, perhaps, in some way, the last bastion for the purple and yellow of WCW, the one to carry on the WCW tradition."

It's called legacy. WCW has it, and Luger is the one to piggy-back that heritage into the 21st Century. Lex Luger isn't just for Lex Luger anymore; he is now wrestling for the 90-year history of what is now known as World Championship Wrestling. He is wrestling with a purpose. Does that mean Lex Luger is WCW's much-needed leader? Not so fast, he says.

"There can't be 'A' leader. I know I can't do that by myself, and I don't think any wrestler can do that by himself or herself," Luger said.

It is, instead, a team-effort, Luger said. And hopefully that group will include Sting, that's what Luger really wants.

"Despite the personal success I have had of late, the one thing that's upsetting is, the mystery and uncertainty of Sting. That's taken away some of the enjoyment of this time in my career," Luger said. "I always pictured Stinger as WCW more than anyone, so, for him to be so wishy-washy, that's a big disappointment. I'm not disappointed with Sting, because I know what's going on with Sting, or at least part of why he's doing/saying what he is. One of the biggest things is, I questioned his integrity, which Sting has always held higher than anything, his devotion to WCW and the fans."

Can you say, The Bogus Sting?

"I know that really cut deep at Sting," Luger said. "Here was Sting, the man holding up the WCW banner for years, the man wrestling each and every week, then, in a very short time, everyone — myself included — seemed to not trust Stinger anymore.

"We need Sting on our side. I know that; you know that; I think the whole world knows that. He is a very talented wrestler. Sting is a key guy the WCW really needs. I know the challenge from The NWO is not going to go away; it will be here for a long time, so we need Sting. ON OUR SIDE."

THE RACK

In the past, there were times — plenty, he now admits — when Luger questioned whether or not he could 'Rack' an opponent, especially if the guy was much over 300-pounds. Consequently, he often didn't even go for it. He instead would try another finisher.

Today, everyone is fair game to the most painful finisher in the sport. From The Giant on down.

"I know, if I got my opponent in The Torture Rack, unless there is some form of outside interference, the match is over because there's no way out. I think that's what makes it such an effective finisher," Luger said. "If I can get The Giant up, gosh, I can get anyone up, in my opinion. That gives me an incredible amount of confidence when I enter the ring. My confidence is now 10-fold greater than past years."

How about pressure? There's plenty, he says, appreciably. Luger is one who likes the pre-match butterflies, and he doesn't want to lose them.

"I get nervous before every match, regardless of who I'm wrestling. I feed off of that. I want to be nervous; it gets me ready; it raises my level of intensity," Luger said. "As you get older, gain more experience, I think you learn to handle it better, channel it into the proper direction."

Luger is a reluctant self-critic. At least to others he is slow to analyse himself. Was the win over The Giant the greatest win of his career? Luger hedges. He simply said it was "very gratifying" since so many predicted he didn't have a snowballs chance in hell of stopping the near-500-pound gargantuan.

"I'd rather just go out and work my hardest. I'll leave the analysis to others," Luger said. "Sure, I think I had a good year in 1996, but I think there is a lot more to accomplish. I want to use 1996 as a stepping-stone to the future. I don't really have any personal goals at present. I just take each match, regardless of the opponent, as a challenge.

"What I'd really like is two-fold: Re-establish WCW as the No. 1 wrestling organization in the world as it always will be and also bring Sting back into the fold, where he belongs, with WCW."

Well, there's no stopping Luger these days, so that means good news for WCW.

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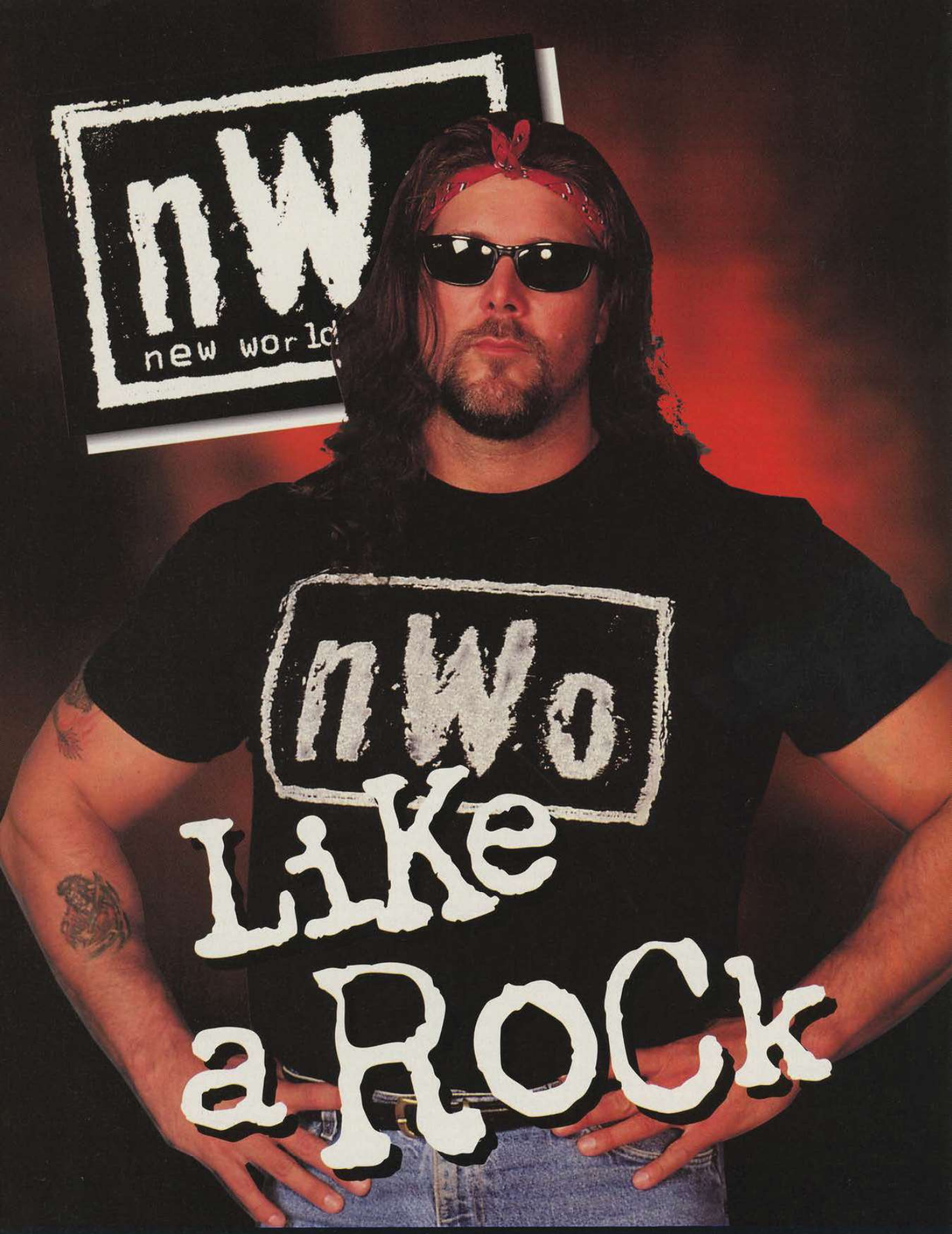


The Uncensored Voice of The New World Order

Issue 4
March 1997

Like a Ro...

We're not talking about some useless tag team match against, say, The Starbuck Brothers or The Steiner Sisters. Those teams really aren't much of a challenge for The Outsiders, Kevin Nash and Scott Hall. We're not talking about taking over the Monday Nitro broadcast chores. We've already Nike-d it. Been there, done it ... and will continue to do it. We are, instead, talking about baseball, the national pastime. The Boys of Summer. Wooden bats. Rawlings baseballs. The distinctive sound of a ball meeting a leather glove. Pinetar. Bubblegum. Trading cards.

Specifically, we're talking Detroit Tiger ball.

"Much the way a person from, say, Pittsburgh is a lifelong Pirates fan, I am from Detroit ... and I'm a lifer with the Tigers. That's how it is when you support a team, through thick and thin, the good times and bad," Nash said. "You always see or hear about people jumping aboard a bandwagon and, well, that's fine for some, but not with me. Those aren't the people I want to be associated with; I want to be with those who are loyal."

Especially if that dedication is for the blue and orange that emanates from 2121 Trumbull Avenue in Detroit. That is, of course, Tiger Stadium, home of Al Kaline fame. Of Charlie Gehringer fame. Of Hank Greenberg fame. The former residence to such Hall of Famers as Earl Averill, Ty Cobb, Mickey Cochrane, Rick Ferrell, Goose Goslin, Waite Hoyt, George Kell, Eddie Mathews and Hal Newhouser.

"Every kid growing up in Detroit wants to play for the Tigers. I was no exception," Nash said. "There's nothing like that feeling of going to your first game at Tiger Stadium, walking up the ramp from the concourse area and seeing the green, green grass. Sure, baseball has had a bad name of late, but I'll tell you, I can't wait to take my son to his first game."

Nash's passion for the Tigers goes beyond that of a casual fan. Without hesitation and without research, he rattles off the starting line up for the '68 Tigers, the team managed by Mayo Smith that finished 103-59. "Norm Cash at first, Dick McAuliffe at second, Ray Oyler at short," Nash begins, not stopping until he's named the entire starting rotation and the relief corps.

"Yeah, I'm a big baseball fan," said Nash, whose favorite was power-hitting outfielder Willie Horton.

Can Kevin play? Can he hack with the best of 'em? Well, he hasn't taken any cuts in a batting cage recently, but that's about to change. Marcus "Buff" Bagwell, the All-State (Georgia, 1988) first baseman from Sprayberry High School, challenged Nash to a hitting contest on opening day of spring training. The contest: Who, without prior practice, can get the most hits in the "fast" batting cage. The wager: $100. Double-or-nothing is set for opening day in April.

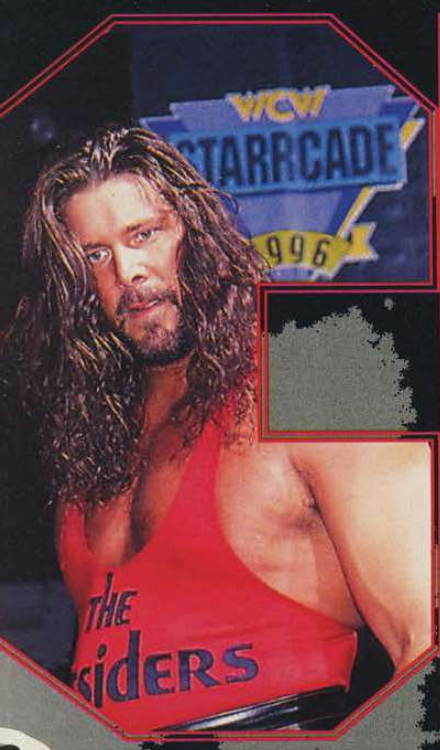
"It's just fun to talk baseball with Kevin," Bagwell said. "It's always been fun, ever since his stint years ago in WCW, to dog each other about how our teams are doing. Kevin has long been a Detroit fan, while I back the (Atlanta) Braves.

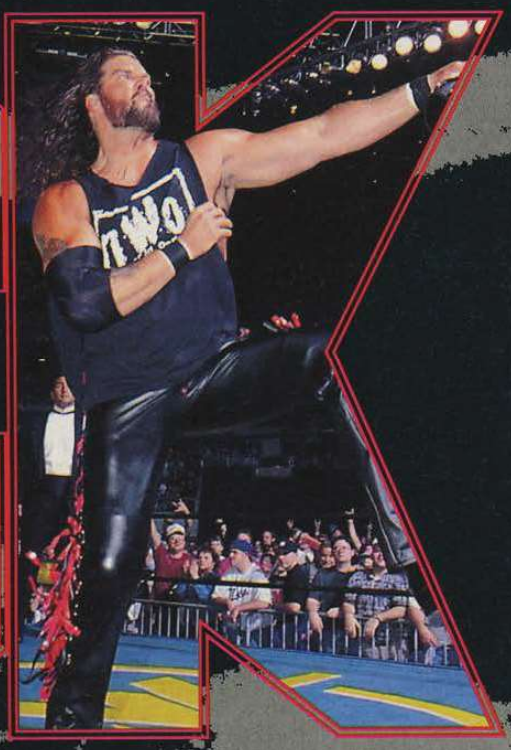
We both love baseball; however, his team, the Detroit Tigers, was dead last in everything last year; they were horrible. This year, he's either gotta jump-ship and go (support) another team, which I know he'll never do, or it'll be a looooooong summer for Kevin with me on his back about how bad the Tigers are doing, coupled with the fact that the Braves will do so well."

Nash's sporting interests definitely includes basketball. Namely, college hoops. Dicky V would be proud of this PTPer. Nash knows the game inside and out, the players and the pretenders. He is as comfortable talking about lay-ups as laying someone out inside the squared-circle. "College, it's a good brand of basketball. The NBA, it goes in spurts," said Nash, a Detroit Pistons backer who also supports UCLA; "I was a big (Bill) Walton fan when I was growing up."

Nash played power forward and center at Tennessee from 1977-80. He was a strong rebounder who prided himself on his defense,

THE COUNTDOWN IS ON — F





...ock

...by The Nomad...

especially since it usually meant guarding the opponent's top scorer. He was a Rony Seikaly-like player: Somewhat erratic. Still, the Volunteers reached the Sweet Sixteen round of the NCAA Tournament during Nash's stint. He then played 3½ years professionally in Germany until a knee injury forced him off the court.

"Kevin Nash is just a great guy. He's funny. He's cool. He's big. He's bad. He's tough. He's an athlete. If you ask me, he's the man," Bagwell said. "If Kevin Nash wanted to quit wrestling, he could become a stand-up comic tomorrow; he's that good ... he's absolutely hilarious."

The Nash wit stems from a "progressive" side, not to mention hours in front of the television. Usually with his "Wolf Pack" pals — Scott Hall and Syxx — also not far from the remote control. Nash is part-Frank Sinatra ("I've always wanted to do things my way, not as the mold says to do it.") and part-George Thoroughgood ("Bad to the bone.") The key: "Have fun," Nash said.

Music has always been a mainstay with Nash. From rap to rock-n-roll and in-between, except, perhaps, country. Nash is a Bob Seger kinda guy, a 'Mainstream' player in the wrestling wars who has hit the 'Hollywood Nights.'

"I still remember the first time I met Kevin Nash back, oh, seven- or eight-years ago," Big Bubba said, "we were both working out at the same gym in Marietta, Ga., and I knew right then that he was a great athlete. He had never stepped into a wrestling ring at that point, but I knew right then that he could make it. Kevin Nash can handle mental stress as well as physical stress, and that's a gift that not many people have.

"Yep, Kevin Nash has come a long way since that first meeting.

"When The NWO gets through with The Giant — the guy who didn't have the heart, will or stamina to stick up for what he believes in — he will be out of the wrestling business. Then, Kevin Nash will be the true Giant of the wrestling world."

Away from the sport, Nash is a "hand's on" dad. Part Mrs. Doubtfire with a dash of Mr. Mom, he admits. He also is a regular gym rat.

"I admire anyone, and everyone, who is successful, making money in the wrestling business ... and that certainly includes Kevin Nash," Big Bubba said. "When you mention Kevin Nash, how can you not talk about his wit? He is so fast on the draw. He probably is the best commentator in wrestling next to Scott Hall."

Nash's humor stems from his superior intelligence, not to mention his love for movies and reading. He has a splash of Steven Wright mixed with Bob Newhart, Bill Murray, Chris Farley, Dan Aykroyd and all the other 'Saturday Night Live' heroes.

And then there's the Penthouse article he read a few years back. It was, in reality, a survey of 50 things — to see which items you would NOT laugh at. Nash laughed at all 50.

"If you can't laugh through life, how can you be happy?" Nash said. "There aren't too many circumstances in life that, I feel, can't be made into a joke."

Like, perhaps, a tag title match against The Starbuck Brothers to open the new domed stadium for the Arizona Diamondbacks with, oh, 20 people in the stands. "But at least we'd do it with style," Nash said.

Just like everything NWO: Class and dignity ... with a drop of thug dropped in for good measure.

"I remember once when my car was broken," Nash began, "I was going to try to fix it myself, but my dad said to take it to a mechanic, because they are the experts, they do that for a living. I never have forgotten that (advice), especially now in wrestling, because I am with the best; The NWO."

Said Bagwell, "I have respected Kevin Nash for years, not just recently. Much like myself, WCW did not give Kevin Nash any credit, any recognition for his ability, so he moved on. Now he's back — in The NWO — as their worst nightmare."

...ND KEVIN NASH CAN'T WAIT

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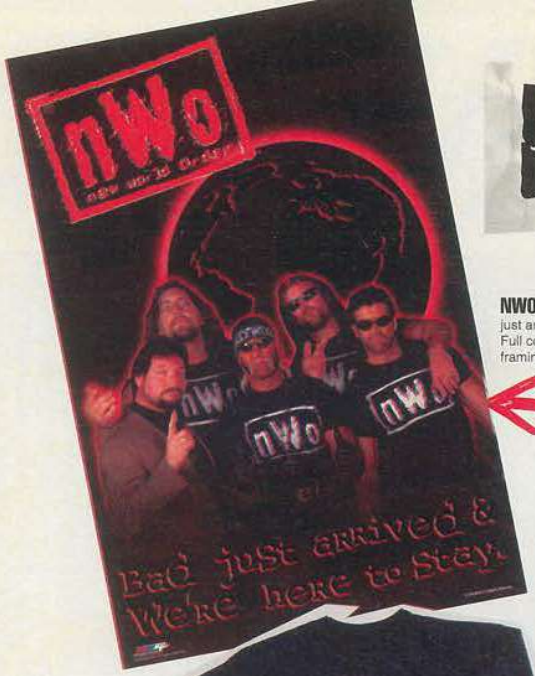

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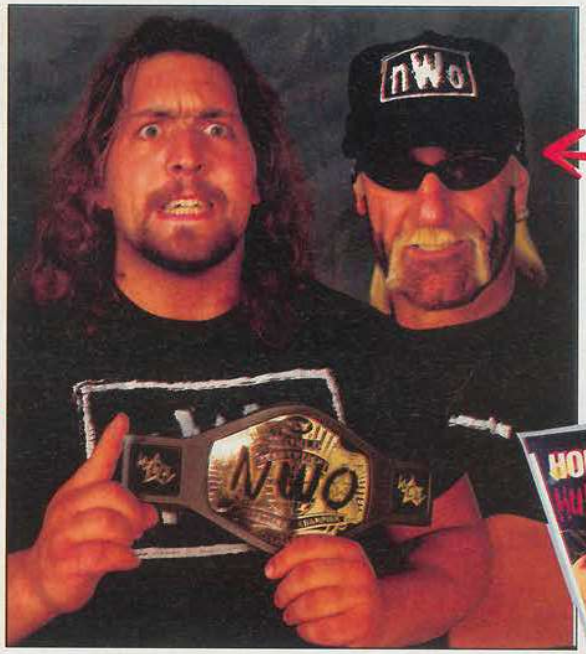

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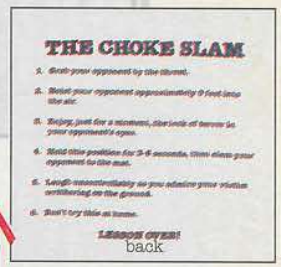

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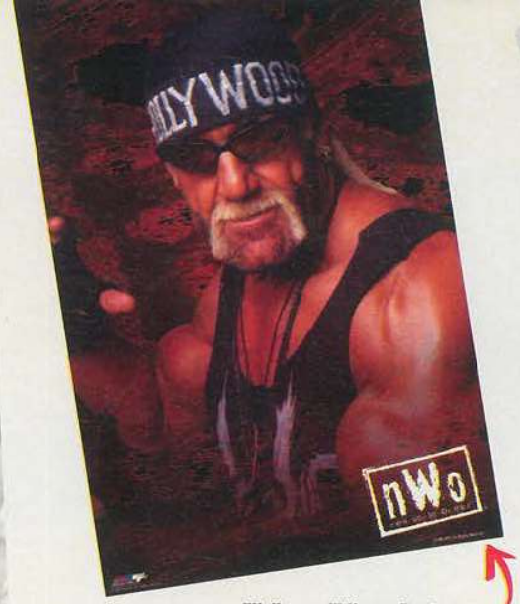

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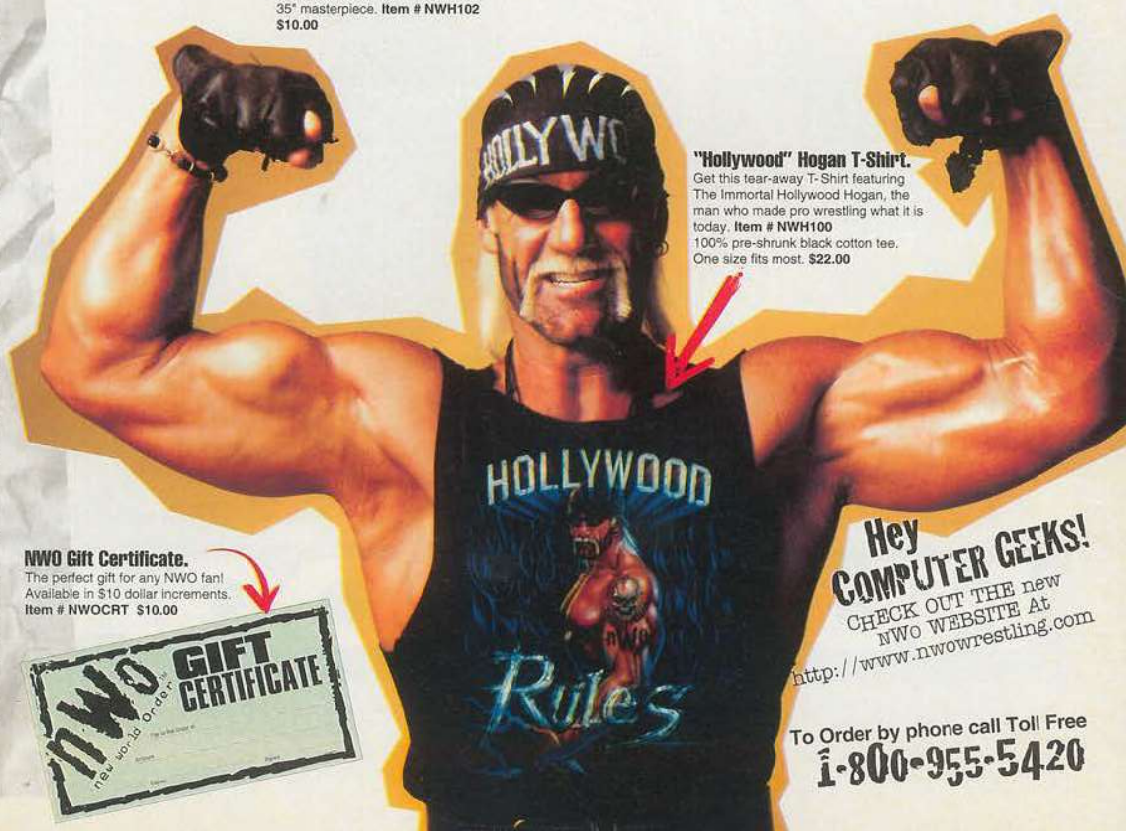

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GETTING STRONGER

by The Nomad

It should be a surprise to ... well, no one, that Michael Wallstreet jumped aboard the Black & White Express, known in the wrestling world as The New World Order.

Wallstreet has long been a successful mat strategist, a champion on several levels in several leagues. Singles and tag team action, Wallstreet has starred in both. More than that, Wallstreet is a businessman. A smart businessman. One who can talk about the NASDAQ as well as he can communicate the X's and O's of ring strategy.

And who can forget the Wallstreet-Ted DiBiase tie? The pair has been World Tag Team Champions on numerous occasions and, more important than that, they are business partners on four — not three, as regularly reported — business ventures. Neither Wallstreet nor DiBiase would name their business undertakings. Wallstreet simply said, "our business dealings make both of us big-bucks."

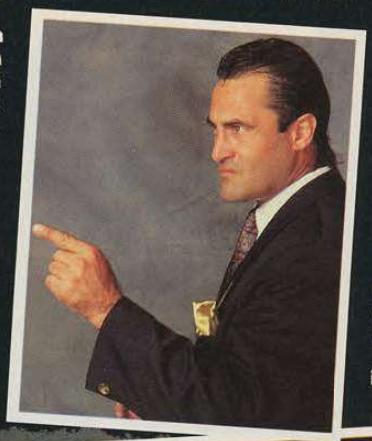
Money is the bottom-line for Wallstreet. He wasn't getting title shots in WCW, hence, he wasn't getting the green stuff that he wanted. DiBiase promises title shots, so you can bet (pun intended) it wasn't a tough decision for Wallstreet.

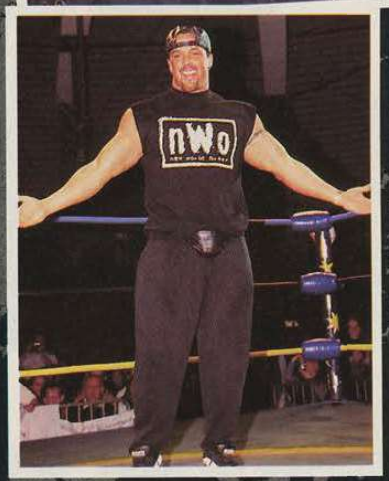
"Mr. DiBiase's contract has a great number of zeros on it ... and that's something Michael Wallstreet looks at imperatively in every situation in life," Wallstreet said. "I remember, when Mr. DiBiase offered me an NWO contract last December — during a Monday Nitro match with "Mean" Mike Enos — I was going to sign it on the spot. I know Mr. DiBiase is a fair, honest businessman, I knew I could trust him. However, I'll be honest, I let my financial analysts and attorneys in Washington, D.C., check it out, just to make sure there weren't any loop-holes that I didn't see at first glance.

"Well, my people in D.C., got back to me in, oh, about 15 minutes. They said, 'Sign it immediately!!' I did just that ... and couldn't be happier."

Wallstreet said he is more than willing to work for The NWO in the singles ranks, the tag team field, or just as a financial advisor. DiBiase, when asked in mid-January, said he would not be re-joining Wallstreet in the ring as his tag team partner ("I'm retired," DiBiase noted.), but has been out seeking a potential partner for Wallstreet. "Michael Wallstreet is a great wrestler, a man of unlimited capabilities. I'm actually looking to sign a young, up-and-coming wrestler, not just so Mr. Wallstreet can give him a crash course in wrestling, but just as important, about business."

Said Wallstreet, "Perhaps my biggest strength is my Roladex of connections around the world. Mr. DiBiase knows that; Eric Bischoff knows that; the whole wrestling world knows that. I will use that Roladex to help The NWO any — and every — way possible. Why's that? Wrestling is my life, has been for years and years. And, thanks to The NWO, wrestling is again at an exciting level."





Wallstreet's December jump into The NWO was one of many. Big Bubba, Scott Norton, Marcus "Buff" Bagwell and Masahiro Chono are among the newcomers enjoying an expanded wallet. Others also have inked NWO contracts, although they were not seen on NWO TV as of mid-January.

"My career was going nowhere in The Dungeon of Duds. Those guys, like 'Taskmaster' Kevin Sullivan and Konan, are nothing but a bunch of rejects, has-beens who never were," Big Bubba said. "I, on the other hand, am an elite wrestler, a brawler who doesn't take 'No' for an answer. I've been in there with the best, and I've beaten the best. Now I get to associate myself with the best, guys like 'Hollywood' Hulk Hogan, Scott Hall and Kevin Nash; that makes my life a lot easier — and their life a lot worse!! I'm gonna do some pounding on The Dungeon. I'm going get even with Sullivan & Co., for the way they kept me down. I'm a champion who wasn't getting the title shots I deserved, or the opportunity to really hurt people while in WCW. I know things will be different in The NWO."

Norton is one of the strongest wrestlers in the business, a mega-star in Japan AND the U.S.. However, for most of his WCW career, he was teamed with Ice Train, a feeble wrestler from Michigan, as Fire & Ice. Guess who had to carry that team? You got it: Norton. Now he'll carry his muscle for the Black & White Express.

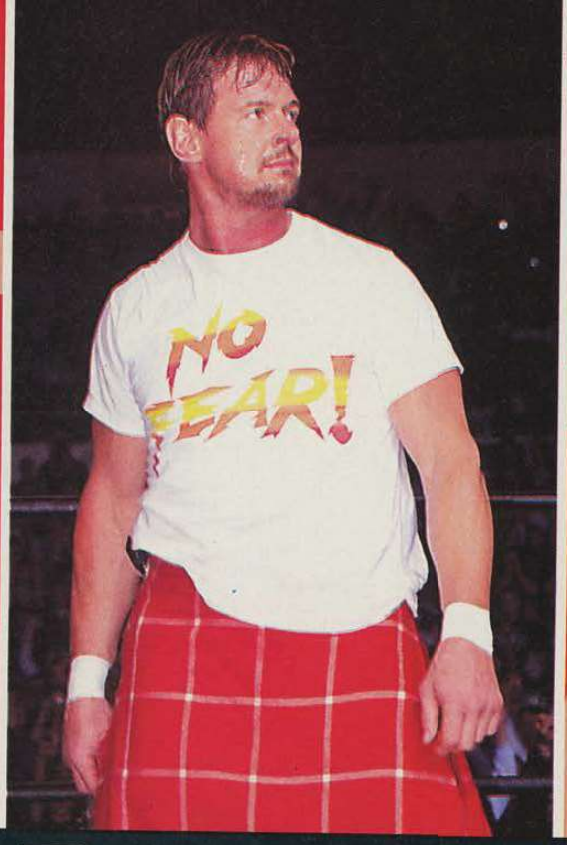
"When I came into WCW, I went right after 'Macho Boy' Randy Savage because that's the level of competition I want ... Ted DiBiase promises me I will get that as a member of The NWO," Norton said. "I've wrestled extensively in Japan, at all levels. A lot of my Japanese friends are envious of my jump into The NWO; they too want to be with the best. So, who knows, maybe I'll bring a couple aboard and we'll form an unstoppable six-man unit."

Chono is a lone wolf in the wrestling world, a man who walks his own path. The road he now travels is gold-lined, and spelled N-W-O. "Some maybe surprised I go NWO, but why?! I went where the money is, where the momentum is."

"I beat up Chris Jericho, one of your WCW favorites, to show the world my talent," Chono said.

Braveheart

Roddy Piper was 17, travelling with a veteran wrestler named Fargo when the two concocted a scheme that they would use in as many cities as possible. Fargo would walk into a small diner in, say, Nashville, Tenn., by himself, order a steak dinner with all the fixings. A few minutes later, Piper would stroll in and take a seat near Fargo. Piper would reach into his pocket, grab a few pennies, then order a Coca-Cola.



"What's wrong, son? Are you hungry?" Fargo then asked Piper.

"Yes, sir," Piper replied.

"Well then, give the boy the same thing I'm having," Fargo told the waitress.

Fargo then asked for rolls and butter; Piper would do the same. Fargo asked for an extra large salad; Piper would do the same. Fargo would ask for a piece of pie for dessert; Piper did the same.

"You're kind of a little forward," Fargo said.

"Shut up, you old has been," Piper snapped.

The shocked Fargo then questions Piper, especially after Piper continues to berate him.

"I was in the war," Fargo says.

"What were you, a dishwasher?" Piper replied.

At that point, Fargo grabs his heart and feigns a heart attack. Piper rushes over to Fargo and tells the locals to call an ambulance.

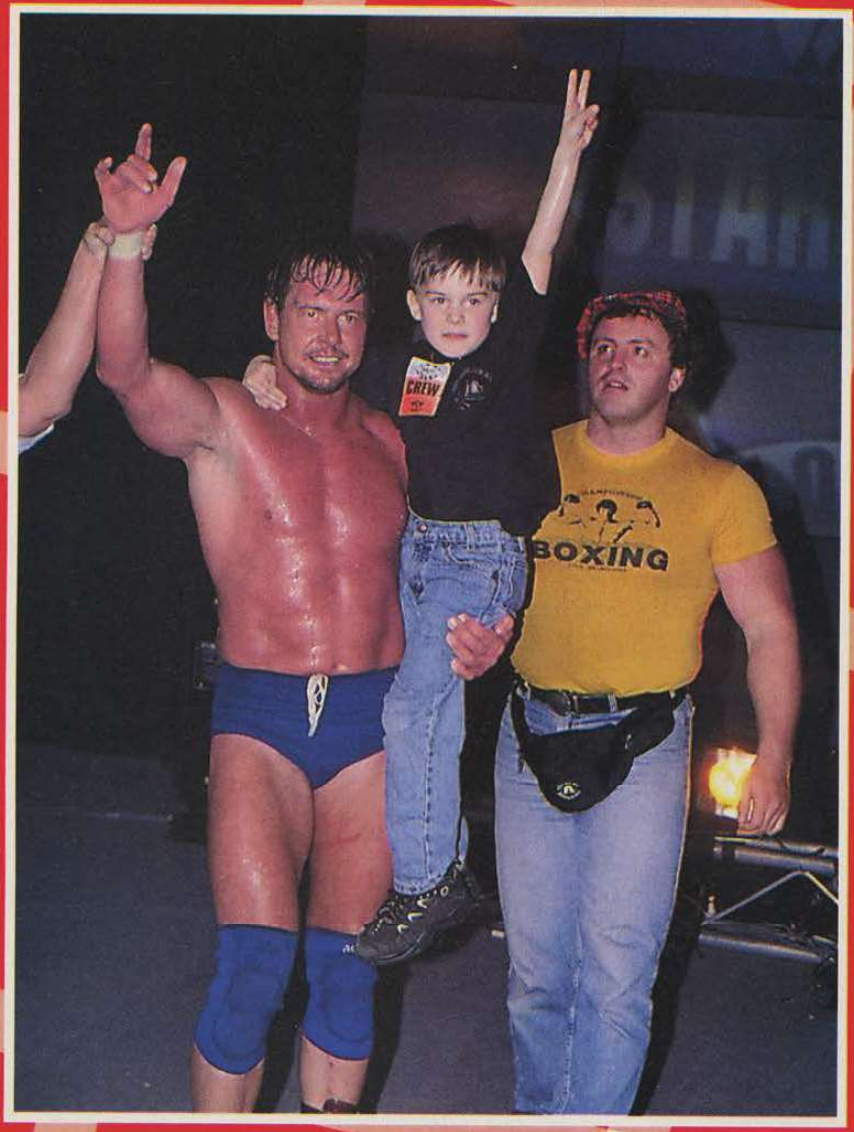
"Never mind," Piper says, "I'll take him myself."

The two scurry out of the restaurant, conveniently forgetting to pay.

Their gig worked countless times.

Piper was back in Nashville a few short weeks ago, and again was eating a special steak dinner. And, once again, he didn't pay one-cent for the meal. This time, though, Piper was the guest of honor, the man of the moment, the man of the year, the man with the spotlight shining brightly on him. "Rowdy" Roddy Piper, in front of a jam-packed crowd at the Nashville Municipal Auditorium — and with millions watching on pay-per-view — defeated "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan in the main event of Starrcade 1996.

"If it wasn't for professional wrestling, I don't know where I'd be. I wasn't a nice kid and I didn't have a nice childhood. That's why I want to bring a little class to my sport, no matter what people think of professional



wrestling," Piper said. "I'm real proud of my sport, because professional wrestling saved my life. I left home when I was 13, lived on the streets for two years. I wasn't going in the right direction; I was a real mean kid, and it stayed with me for a long time. No matter what I accomplish in the movies, the bottom line is: It's the sport of professional wrestling that got me a home, got me a family, got me everything I have here today."

Including memories. Loads of memories. Some good ones, some bad ones, some in between. Some that can be repeated and some that, well, will stay forever buried in Piper's 6-foot-1, 230-pound frame.

"It's not the size of the dog in the fight ... or however that saying goes. Just look at Rocky Marciano; he was a champion, and only weighed 187 pounds," Piper said. "I'm not going to say I am the perfect role-model, because I'm not; I know that. But, I also know Hogan certainly is not. He's yanking women around and doing things that I don't want people in my sport doing. I don't want an O.J. Simpson in wrestling; that's the bottom line.

"I've learned a lot over the years, especially raising six kids. That's why I know kids need to stay straight; go to school. Do you know why people become fighters? Because they're too dumb to do anything else; that's the bottom line."

Piper has been a fighter his whole life, he's the first to admit that. That's why stepping into the ring with Hogan is not a match — but a fight. Piper doesn't back down from anyone, never has. Just ask New York's Men-in-Blue. They had their hand's full years ago when Piper was, shall we say, a tad upset. Then there was the time years ago in Providence, R.I., when an usher named L. Knowing, at the arena Piper was wrestling at, removed Piper's wife and youngest child from the backstage area — because they didn't have tickets.

"One of the boys lets me know that she was having some trouble, so I went to Mr. Knowing and ever-so-gently grabbed him by the esophagus. All of a sudden, here come the boys in blue, Providence's finest," Piper recalls. "At that same time, the fans were chanting my name because I was supposed to wrestle; they were about to riot, and I knew it. I told 'The Finest' — and Mr. Knowing — that if they didn't do something about the situation with my wife, I'm just gonna let the fans riot. Sure enough, the fans went crazy."

Piper spent four days in jail.

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The site was incredible, almost too-good for words, something no one in wrestling would have predicted: Referee Randy "Pee Wee" Anderson raising "Rowdy" Roddy Piper's hand in victory, a decisive victory, over "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan at Starrcade 1996. Yep, in the middle of the Nashville ring, Hogan, on his back, sound asleep, the victim of Piper's patented Sleeper Hold.

There was, though, one drawback: The World Heavyweight Championship was NOT on the line. Per Hogan's demand.

"This may be a little vain to say, but I'll say it anyway: I'm basically the Braveheart of our time," Piper said. "I've been wearing a kilt since I was 5-years-old. I lived on an Indian reservation. Can you imagine when I came into, say, Oklahoma City in a kilt playing the bagpipes? It wasn't an easy gig for me. Never has been. Never will be.

"I really dislike the 'sports-entertainment' label that is frequently attached to wrestling. When I got into wrestling, people were always asking me about the sport. Well, I can't always change someone's opinion about the sport, but I certainly can change their opinion about me. There's one thing about Roddy Piper that the fans know for certain: I will fight hard; I will fight anyone; I will fight anywhere."

After all, Piper is a Golden Gloves champion who first earned his merit in the wrestling ring at age 19, when he won the Light Heavyweight Championship of the World at the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles.

"I went through more things early in my career than Hogan has throughout his entire career. I wrestled for promoters when it was just 300 people in a garage," Piper said. "The thing with Hulk Hogan is, he doesn't know what it is to fight your way through this sport to the top; everything has just been handed to him. When it gets real nasty and gritty, there's no doubt that I will survive over Hogan."

PIPER'S PIT

Just like Piper did against The Bear. What? You don't remember that match in Fresno, Calif.? Well, it truly was a classic for the then-19-year-old Light Heavyweight Champion. Piper was to wrestle a black bear named Victor, in a cage match no less. Yep, a real, live, breathing bear.

"This is the God's truth," Piper said. "They told me not to hit the bear and not to go for its eyes. They also told me that they had a muzzle on the bear, his front teeth and claws were removed ... and to just do my best.

"Well, it's time for the match and they give the bear a half-a-pint of Wild Turkey, then a chaser of Coca-Cola. He guzzles both. At that point I'm scared to death because, well, Victor is pretty aggressive. Regardless, my buddy J.R., bless his soul, slaps me on the bum and says, 'Go get 'em; don't be afraid.' All of a sudden, Victor hooks me and grabs behind me, right up my bum, clawing away. Well, someone had hit me in the bum with some honey, and this bear smelled the honey. As you can bet, I was screaming for my life while the fans were crying in laughter. Finally they took the bear off me."

Piper also has plenty of "food tales" involving peanut butter. Just imagine what peanut butter in a pair of white wrestling trunks looks like at, say, the 15-minute mark in a match. Then there was the time the teenage Piper, riding into town with other wrestlers, is told to buy a "six-pack of skimmed milk" for the boys. The guys drop Piper off at the local 7-11, tell him to walk to the arena which is "just around the corner." Or maybe 25 miles, to be exact. Piper had to hitchhike to the arena, change into his wrestling gear in a stranger's car, "and you can bet I'd get a bunch of strange looks when I pulled out my kilt."

Every kilt-wearing Scotsman knows how to play the bagpipes, right? Of course, Piper says. Unless Freddie Blassie gets ahold of the bagpipes first, like he did one day in Los Angeles. Blassie, in a perfectly-timed prank, stuck paper up one part of the bagpipes and baby powder out of another. So, as Piper started to play in front of the crowd, or at least tried to play, baby powder came flying out.

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Can Roddy Piper beat Hulk Hogan for the World Heavyweight Championship? Will Hogan give Piper the shot? Will Hogan just keep avoiding Piper? How will The NWO play into this picture? What about the foundation of WCW, like Ric Flair, open supporters of Piper? So many questions, so few answers ... until you ask Piper, that is.

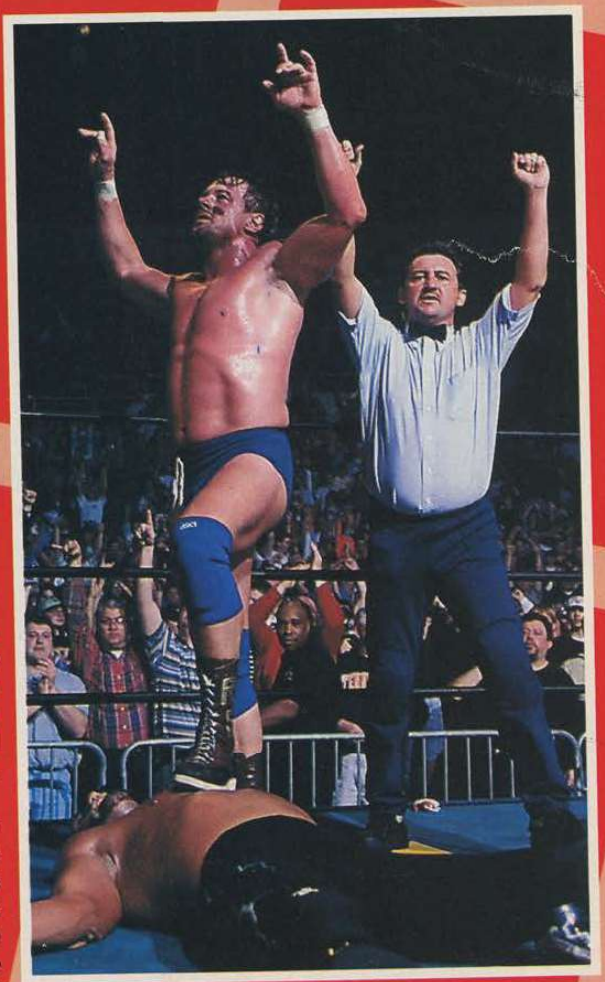
"I know the key to beating Hogan is to get him off his feet, especially because of the size advantage he has on me. I need to lay on his lungs, pull out the hair on the back of his head — because I've already pulled out all of the hairs on top of his head," Piper said. "The big advantage I have is conditioning. He might be able to last 10 minutes, then he starts stepping on his tongue ... and that's when he's mine. All mine!!

"Hogan is only operating on one brain cell, so, if I was to talk to him at the same time, he certainly would be confused. So that's out of the question. His head is big, enormous. His ego is bigger, if possible. In fact, if his head gets any bigger, you could take one of Roseanne Barr's bra cups, put it on his head and it would look like a yarmulke."

Piper insists his replaced right hip will not affect his wrestling. He has, he notes, already been run over by a car and run 22 miles during filming of "Marked Man," his late-January movie release.

"Hulk Hogan gets a kick out of calling me 'A Gimp.' Well, I am what I am, what I am ... and that's all I am," Piper said. "I know why Hulk Hogan is afraid to step back into the ring with me, because I might take away from his time on the tanning bed. Hogan probably spends two- or three-hours-a-day on that bed, and it sure seems like it has fried his brain. But, I know the day will come, a lot sooner than Hogan thinks — Piper vs. Hogan for the World Heavyweight Championship — and I'll come at Hogan 110 percent, no matter how I have to come at him, even if it's on a pogo stick because of my leg."

And you can bet the old generation of wrestlers will be cheering for Piper.



PUBLIC OPINION

By Rocco Rock

I'd like to introduce you to Public Enemy's first column, The Public Opinion, which is based on the opinions of myself and my tag team partner, Johnny Grunge. Ya like us? Good. Ya love us? That's even better. Ya hate us? Too bad; we're here to stay.

Let's start with a little Public Opinion recap of Starrcade 1996. Hulk Hogan is getting a little soft. Why? Well, ya gotta look at Hogan by first looking at his opponent, "Rowdy" Roddy Piper. Mr. Piper just ain't the man he used to be; that hip is REALLY giving him some problems; his balance is way off; his speed is much slower. And yet Hogan didn't attack that hip the way Johnny or I would, especially in a match of that caliber. I think The NWO is making Hogan soft, and he ain't as bad as he wants everyone to think he is. Let's move to the Diamond Dallas Page-Eddie Guerrero match, which I was highly disappointed because of The NWO interference. I don't understand why this Hall and Nash team has to worry about everyone else's match on the card; Eddie Guerrero could have beat that man just fine by himself. And The Faces of Fear were enough of a task; they kicked your tails throughout. Pay more attention to your own match, a little less to others. Against The Faces of Fear, Outsiders you got lucky; they beat your butts all around the ring. And that's exactly what we too would do to them; we'd do some table-dancing all over their faces. And I think we'd have to do that match inside a steel cage, with a few bottles, a few cans already in there for added excitement. Ya know what I say ... let's get it on, because I just don't think they're that tough. That's enough about the pay-per-view, now let's get on to some important things in South Philadelphia ...

As you know, Johnny and I — and all of the other boys from WCW — had some time off around Christmas, so I had plenty of time to go to Tony Luke's, for one of those world-famous Philly Cheesesteak Sandwiches. Delicious as usual, Tony, but you've gotta put some doors on the front of that store; cold air is coming in and the customers are freezing to death.

If I heard it once, I heard it 5,000,000 times ... how could The Amazing French Canadians beat us? Well, I'm gonna tell you something, me and Johnny are always using tables ... and sometimes you get the table, sometimes the table gets you.

These midgets from Mexico ... I ain't ever seen anything like this in my whole life. They were running around, crashing into one another like crazy. I thought there were bumble bees in the ring. I don't know who's training them, but I would like to meet that person. I tip my hat to the trainer and, of course, the wrestlers. They're amazing!!

I want to send a shout out to my South Philly pal Johnny Pots-n-Pans.

I cannot believe the influx of talent coming into WCW. It seems like every week a newcomer is here. Personally, I'd like to know where WCW is getting all this money to pay all these people. I have never seen an organization so deep in singles wrestlers, tag teams, managers, women and even broadcasters. And I hear even more people are coming in over the weeks and months ahead. Wherever it's coming from, keep up the good work!!

This Debra McMichael has become so arrogant. Why? I do not know. She is a beautiful woman who has everything going for her, so why is she so arrogant? Is she jealous of Woman? I don't know. Is she jealous of Randy Savage's ex-wife, The Lovely Elizabeth? I don't know. Is she jealous of Sister Sherri? I don't know. The only thing I do know is, something has gotten this girl crazy; she's acting like a fool.

Chris Benoit & Woman ... how can this be? We know who this woman is with? And if that's true, that man needs to get Woman under control!! What does she see in Chris Benoit anyway? He's probably one of the greatest Cruiserweights alive, but is nothing but the world's largest midget. How can there be any sexual appeal for Chris from a beautiful woman like her? He's mean; he's nasty; he's ornery. What in the world are you doing with him, girl? Go back to your man and do the right thing!!

Watch your back in this game of wrestling. No one knows who's their friend and who's their enemy!! So many people are stabbing their "friends" in the back nowadays that you've gotta wear body-armor. It's ridiculous!!!

I keep hearing through the grapevine, over the Internet, through friends that Johnny and I are leaving WCW ... that just isn't so!! We're staying right here because WCW is the leader among everyone, easily No. 1.

The Public Enemy ... you've been laughing with us, you've been dancing with us, well, now you can look for a new, improved, vicious mean team. What got us here was being the most vicious team in the business, and we're going back to that, back to our brutal days!! Don't flick that channel, unless you don't like violence.

Why is Debra so arrogant?

MOST WANTED

Diamond Dallas Page arrived at The SuperDome in New Orleans about five hours before The Clash of the Champions was to start. He had a portable VCR in his left hand and was strolling toward one of the many Turner Broadcasting trucks parked adjacent to the arena. "Hey, you want autographs? (The crowd cheered) I don't think so," he barked as he walked into the production truck. DDP was on a mission, an objective that has become commonplace for the arrogant athlete. He was looking to hook into a different camera angle, not just the one seen on TV. DDP has been doing the same for years: Studying video tape as if the final exam was within hours.

"The thing about Diamond Dallas Page that impresses me the most is, that he's actually made a transition that, I believe, is a first: From manager and broadcaster to wrestler. Historically, people do it the other way. But not DDP," WCW broadcaster Mike Tenay said. "He has made the transition and, more than that, made it so well. You will not find a harder worker in professional wrestling than Diamond Dallas Page."

Added Chris Cruise, "DDP's attitude is ... well, there's not much about his attitude that I like, but, he has shown he can wrestle. Against anyone in this sport."

Just ask Scott Hall or Kevin Nash, DDP's longtime friends, who, for months, tried just about every trick in the book to snag DDP into The New World Order. DDP is, bottom line, a wanted man. The first 10 or so members of The NWO went willingly, without a courtship. Not so with DDP. (At least as of press time.) Also, not so with Sting. Yep, that's the company — and respect — Page is keeping these days. Sting and DDP, the Most Wanted Men in professional wrestling.

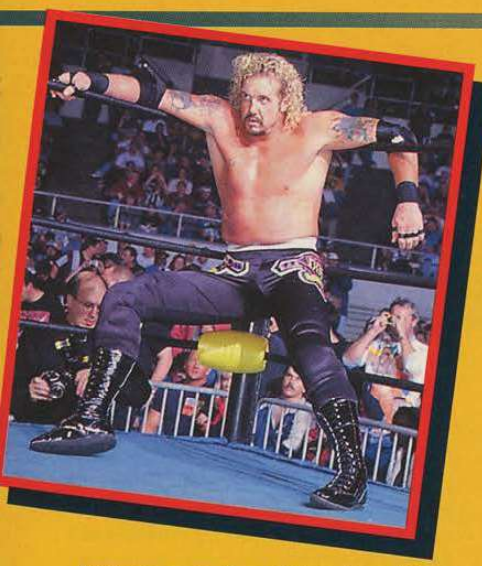
"Five and a half years ago, I hadn't even laced up a pair of boots. Look at me now, on top of the world. Everyone wants to be associated with DDP, and not just because I have the greatest finisher in the business, The Diamond Cutter," DDP said. "I want it ... and no one wants it more than me!! Want is the key. You can't stop smoking until you WANT it. You can't stop drinking until you WANT it. You can't lose weight until you WANT it. I really WANT it, and I won't be denied."

DDP has become the Deion Sanders of professional wrestling. He talks a good game, and backs it up!! The Diamond Cutter can stop anyone. And that does mean anyone.

"I guess I should be flattered to be wanted as much as Sting since he has long been 'The Franchise' of WCW, but I'm not," DDP said. "I have a won't-be-denied attitude and am just living up to that."

When not in his home-away-from-home, Las Vegas, Page makes his home in suburban Atlanta. That's where the DDP Wrestling War Room is located, a photo gallery that any museum would be glad to feature. Included, an 8-by-10 framed photo of a younger Diamond Dallas Page and his pal Scott Hall. DDP glances at the photo daily, pauses and reflects. Their looks have changed. Their hairstyles have changed. The attitudes have changed. The photo, as opposed to DDP and Scott Hall of 1997, is like from "two different millenniums," DDP said.

The bond between DDP and Scott Hall is deep and very strong. The two were together in Florida Championship Wrestling in 1988, then, in 1990, DDP grabbed Hall as one of his proteges. DDP had nicknamed him "Studd," hence, The Diamond Studd. Kevin Nash also is a major player in this wild web. When Nash wrestled for WCW as Vinnie Vegas, his tag team partner on The Vegas Connection was none other than Diamond Dallas Page.



Perhaps now the picture is getting clearer as to the attraction to DDP from The Outsiders.

"Kevin and I were two hungry lions, each wanting to learn as much as possible. That's why we stuck together," DDP said. "I was, at the time, ON THE BOTTOM OF THE WRESTLING BARREL, but, through hard work and dedication, I have risen TO THE TOP! It's a strong statement, a bold statement ... but the truth. Think about it."

All three have risen to worldwide fame and, ironically, each have received the Most Improved Wrestler Award during their fourth year active (Scott Hall, 1992; Kevin Nash, 1993; DDP, 1995).

"The biggest thing that ticks me off now about Scott and Kevin is not the way they came in here, because they do have a grudge to bear. I completely understand why they are so angry; I don't understand or agree with the way they are doing some things. But that's JUST my opinion," DDP said. "When Scott was in WCW years ago, he was one of the most impressive guys on the planet, yet didn't get the opportunities that he deserved. When Kevin and I teamed, those were some of the best times of my life. There were a lot of good times, a lot of parties. I'll never forget those days. Kevin has to be the funniest man on the planet, on and off the court, so to speak. He's a blast."

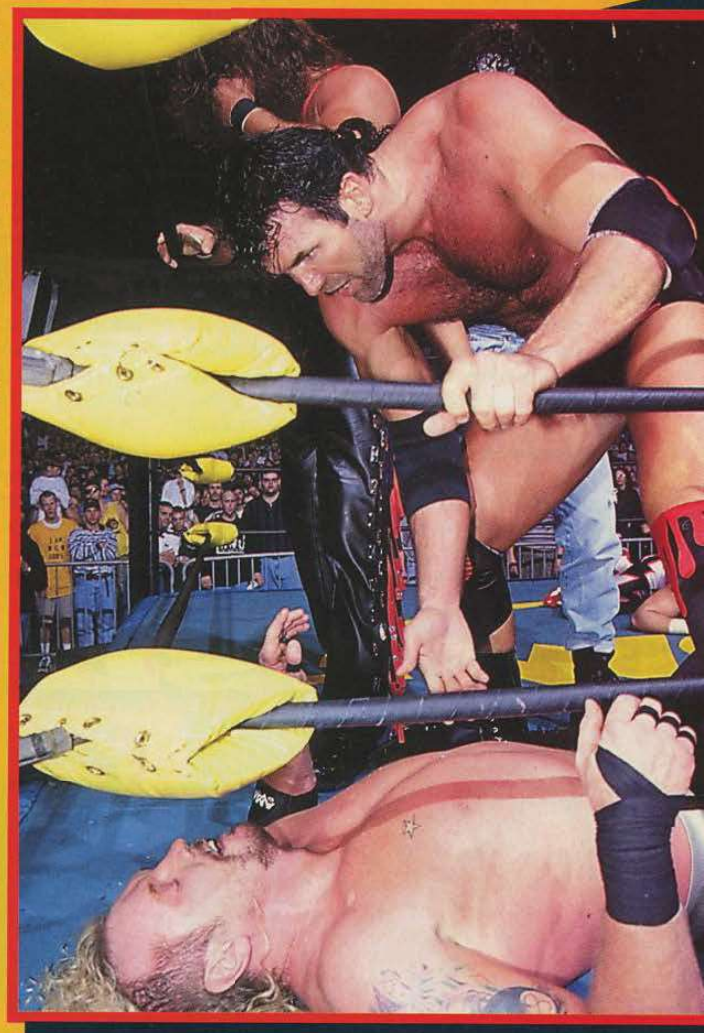
What was the most memorable moment with Scott and Kevin?

"Nothing that I care to repeat," DDP snapped. "Even though we weren't making the most money; we were having the best time."

The three-way relationship/courtship hit its rockiest point at Starrcade 1996, during DDP's U.S. Championship title tilt with Eddie Guerrero. The NWO thugs came to ringside — and dropped DDP, not Guerrero. It was a wake-up call of their potential, they said. About a week later, DDP missed a Television Title match with Lord Steven Regal so he could have dinner with Scott "to patch things up," DDP said.

"I had Eddie Guerrero right where I wanted him; I could have taken him out at any point. Then they come in," DDP said. "I now know what I've gotta do ... The NWO is too strong."

Said Lee Marshall, "There's an old saying that 'adversity builds character.' But I don't believe that. I think adversity reveals character. And I think DDP's character has been revealed by this latest dose of adversity. Am I surprised? Not really. Diamond Dallas Page has always done whatever he has wanted to do. He's very up-front about his feelings. The thing with DDP is, you might not like what he says, but he very rarely lies. I know first-hand; I broadcast for years with him. And that always was an adventure because you never knew what he was going to say. The only certainty was, he was going to say what was on his mind, and that didn't always fall into the realm of commonplace or decency. DDP had no problem insulting someone if he thought it was appropriate. The fact that his comment might be a hurtful statement, well, that was a complete non-issue to him."



DDP is now in the best shape of his life, unquestionably. He is a 250-pound fighting machine — with abs made by 1000 daily crunches - not Corona. What's the difference? A personal trainer, he said.

DDP is now on a strict diet and focusing on his cardio vascular conditioning.

"She has been terrific," DDP said.

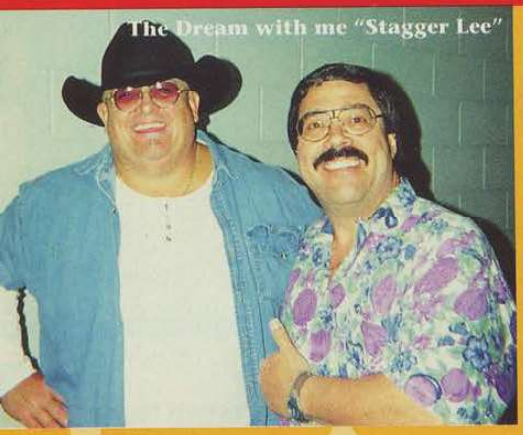
Who is the trainer?

"That's none of your business!!!" DDP barked.

Page also appeared uneasy when Eric Bischoff's name was mentioned. The two are neighbors and longtime friends. At least until Bischoff's jump aboard the Black & White Express. DDP simply said "No comment" when asked about Bischoff.

So what's the future hold for DDP? Who knows. The only certainty is, he will do what HE wants to do — not what others want him to do.

Marshall Jaw



Like the athletes in all other sports, professional wrestlers have nicknames. Say "Dogfaced Gremlin," and fans know you're talking about Rick Steiner. "The Total Package" is, of course, Lex Luger. "Lionheart" is Chris Jericho. Ric Flair is "The Nature Boy," Arn Anderson is "The Enforcer," Chris Benoit is "The Canadian Crippler," and Steve McMichael is "Mongo."

The same can be said for WCW's broadcasters. Yes, believe it or not, broadcasters also have nicknames. Some come from their days in the ring, while others have an interesting origin. That said, and in response to fan inquiries, here's the low-down on the nicknames of some of WCW's broadcasters.

TONY SCHIAVONE, "Silver Tongue"

One needs listen to Tony Schiavone only once to understand why he was given the nickname. Tony's style and delivery is smooth, his knowledge of professional wrestling — as well as other sports — is known and respected by all.

Tony actually got the nickname from the legendary Dusty Rhodes. While Tony and Dusty were providing the commentary for a WCW event some years ago, Dusty became so impressed by Tony's verbal description of the action inside the ring that he said, "Tony, you sure talk with a Silver Tongue." The rest, as they say, is history.

LARRY ZBYSZKO, "The Living Legend"

Larry got his nickname the old-fashioned way: he earned it. Simply put, Larry became a "Legend" by being one of the greatest wrestlers in the history of the sport.

Ric Flair coined the phrase, "To be The Man, you've got to beat The Man." Translated, that famous saying means that, for one person to become the champion, he must defeat the reigning champion. To become a legend, you must eliminate an established legend. As Larry is quick to point out, during his "glorious career," he caused the retirement of such legendary champions as Bruno Sammartino and Nick Bockwinkel. The record speaks for itself. "The Living Legend" Larry Zbyszko has held virtually every major title the sport of professional wrestling has to offer.

BOBBY HEENAN, "The Brain"

In truth, Bobby Heenan is known worldwide by two nicknames: The Brain and Weasel. While he naturally prefers to be called "The Brain," Bobby can't walk into an arena without hearing fans chanting, "Weasel! Weasel! Weasel!" Getting information from Bobby regarding nicknames — or just about anything that he doesn't want to discuss — is an exercise in futility. Bobby refuses to acknowledge that anyone calls him "Weasel." At the same time, he insists that he was first called "The Brain" in Miss Gordon's first-grade class at Beverly Hills Academy.

We do know that Bobby broke into the sport as a wrestler. He was known as "Pretty Boy" Bobby Heenan. It soon became obvious that Bobby's brain would get him further than his brawn. Bobby "The Brain" Heenan has successfully managed dozens of wrestling superstars and champions. As a manager, "The Brain" usually came up with winning strategy for his wrestlers, while in the boardroom, he always had a knack for negotiating the big-money title matches for his clients.

We suspect Bobby was first called "The Brain" by a wrestler he was managing, then called "Weasel" by that same wrestler after Bobby shafted him. Not that that should surprise you.

DUSTY RHODES, "The American Dream"

Dusty is living proof that there is such a thing as "The American Dream." For those who may be unfamiliar with the term, "American Dream" refers to any person, regardless of upbringing or social circumstances, who has the opportunity to achieve greatness if they are willing to dedicate themselves to seeing a dream become a reality.

Dusty grew up in Texas and learned from an early age that he would have to work for everything he wanted. Dusty grew up in a home filled with love, but lacking in luxury. It's a well-known fact that Dusty's father was a hard-working, blue-collar plumber.

As a college athlete at West Texas, Dusty was presented with opportunities to become a professional in football AND baseball. However, Dusty decided to forge a career inside the squared-circle, in professional wrestling. Not only did Dusty make the decision to become a professional wrestler, but, he was determined to become the best. Dusty Rhodes wanted to be a champion. Within a few years, Dusty came from very humble beginnings to becoming a champion — and one of the most popular athletes in the world.

Truly, Dusty Rhodes is, "The American Dream."

MIKE TENAY, "Last Call"

To WCW fans, Mike is known as "The Wrestling Insider" because he truly is a walking, talking wrestling encyclopedia. However, Mike's nickname "Last Call" has nothing to do with wrestling holds and/or events.

Mike is a resident of Las Vegas, which is in the Western Time Zone. So, when it's midnight in Atlanta, it's only 9 p.m. in the West. Consequently, when Mike is covering a WCW event in the Eastern Time Zone, his body-clock is still ticking away on Western time. That means, while most are heading for bed, Mike is still wide-awake. Because he's still bright-eyed, Mike makes sure everyone else is accounted for and has an appropriate wake-up call. Because of this, Mike always sleeps late and misses breakfast. Who gave Mike the nickname "Last Call?" Yours truly, Lee Marshall.

GENE OKERLUND, "Mean"

Perhaps the most identifiable nickname belongs to Mean Gene. Although Mean Gene may have the best known nickname among wrestling broadcasters, it may be the least accurate of the bunch. Gene Okerlund can hardly be described as mean. While a tough and tenacious interviewer, he always goes out of his way to be polite, just so long as he gets both sides of a story or issue.

You only have to look at Gene Okerlund to realize that he does not pose a physical threat to any WCW athlete. So, who gave Gene Okerlund the nickname? Well, it happened years ago in Minneapolis. Gene was doing an interview with an up-and-coming wrestler who started called him Mean Gene. The nickname stuck. For the record, the up-and-coming wrestler was a gentleman named Hulk Hogan, believe it or not.

LEE MARSHALL, "Stagger Lee"

The Los Angeles Times once said, "Lee Marshall has covered more big sporting events than the Goodyear Blimp." However, my nickname actually comes from my other interest: Rock & Roll and Rhythm & Blues music. The name "Stagger Lee" comes from those early-rock and early-R&B days. Back in 1959, a singer named Lloyd Price had a big hit record titled, "Stagger Lee." Dusty Rhodes put the nickname "Stagger Lee" on me during a WCW broadcast ... and it was a perfect fit.

HOTLINE BUZZ

MARK MADDEN

DISCLAIMER: This column features the comments and thoughts of Mark Madden. WCW Magazine nor WCW endorse or agree with his opinions and any complaints should be made to the man himself.

Alex Wright had to go back to his past - Germany - to get a taste of his future - stardom.

Wright is currently one of WCW's forgotten men. He's 21, he has limitless ability and movie-star looks, the surface of his potential has barely been scratched. But all that doesn't mean a lot in the midst of a WCW - NWO war.

In America, that is.

When WCW tours Germany, the German born Wright wrestles in main event caliber matches, taking advantage of Wright's native appeal to draw bigger crowds. Wright used the recent opportunity given him during a December swing through Der Fatherland to show he's a star.

Wright teamed with Lex Luger to dominate a series of matches with Harlem Heat. They won a triangle match against Heat and Public Enemy. The fans cheered all the WCW stars, but they cheered Wright longer than anyone.

"It was real nice to have the country behind me, cheering for me," Wright said. "It was nice to get to know some of the German fans. We wrestle a lot in America, so we get to meet the fans. But in Germany, we're just people on television. WCW hadn't been to Germany since a Christmas tour in 1994."

WCW's tour didn't go to Wright's home town of Nuremburg, but it did hit Schwandorf, 90 minutes away. Wright's friends and neighbors turned out in force for that one.

"I saw a lot of people I hung out with when I was younger, a lot of old friends," Wright said. "To them, I'm the same Alex, just like before. My close friends always knew that I would wrestle. They treat me just the same. And I am the same. I grew up in the wrestling business because of my father, so to me, wrestling isn't something so special. It's just something I do.

"It was nice, though, seeing old friends. In America, if you're on TV, it's sometimes harder to find people who treat you like a normal person."

Wright's dad, retired wrestler Steve Wright, was along for the entire tour.

"Yeah, my dad travelled everywhere with us," Alex said. "I wish he was with me in the States more. He comes over 3 - 4 times a year. My dad always gives me advice, always reviews my matches, and he always tells me the truth. Once in a while, he'll just say 'everything was just fine' and I just can't believe it."

Friends and family weren't the only ones cheering for Wright in Germany, though. He got a hero's welcome everywhere.

"My God, it was like I'm one of the top guys," Wright said, laughing. "I did a one hour autograph session before every show, and people gave me gifts every night ... Three necklaces, arm bracelets, five earrings, food, T-shirts ... It was the same everywhere. A lot of girls and a lot of kids."

There's an Alex Action Figure in Germany.

"That's kind of weird, but great," Wright said.

And WCW has a music CD available in Germany. Wright has a song on disc, "Heartbeat Away". Does Wright really sing it?

"Er, I rap, actually," said Wright, chuckling.

Since there's not much market for a white German rapper in the States, Wright had better stick to wrestling. He thinks he showed WCW something on the German tour.

"I think the tour benefited me," he said. "I'm still happy to be wrestling for a living. Sooner or later, my talent will take me to the top."

"But, in Germany, mostly I just had fun. Taking the other guys out, showing them a good time, the German night life. The clubs don't close until 3, 4, 5 o'clock there."

It should be noted that Wright wrestled in Germany even prior to joining WCW at 18. He competed in about 50 - 60 matches for Otto Wanz' German-based Catch Wrestling Association before that, starting when he was only 16.

"My first match was against a guy named Col. Brody in Wuppertal," Wright reminisced. "I won through DQ."

"It seems like a long time ago. It seems like so much has happened since I first came to America. I think I aged six or seven years in just a few. But that's good for me. I think I have an advantage over other people of my age."

Wright stayed in Germany for a while after the tour.

"I was home on New Year's Day for the first time in four years," he said. "I saw my brother, who is 13, a lot. He's a big kid. He's going to be my size, for sure. I think he wants to wrestle. Maybe when he's 16, we can have a tag team.

"The only bad thing about being at home so long was I ate a lot over the holidays, you know, a lot of junk, and I felt heavy when I came back. I also tore a muscle in my leg during the tour, and I was still hurting when I got back."

One other problem about being in Germany for a month: "I'm having a hard time speaking English again," Wright laughed.

Wright wrestled U.S Champion Eddie Guerrero immediately following his return, on the first Nitro of the year. Guerrero won with the Frog Splash, but no matter. Wright's best days are ahead of him - on both sides of the Atlantic.

"A lot of people forget that I'm only 21," said Wright. "I'm new in the business, but people still seem to expect a lot from me. Sometimes they can be pretty critical."

Ah, but not in Germany. Wright gets his next chance on top of the card when Germany hosts a tour pitting WCW wrestlers against members of The NWO this coming summer.

Wrestling is getting bigger in Germany. WCW is on TV five times a week there, and Wright says digital channels will soon be carrying wrestling 24 hours a day. And the more popular wrestling gets in Germany, the more valuable Wright is to WCW.

(Mark Madden hosts the WCW Hotline on Wednesdays and Fridays. He is the editor of Penguins Report, a hockey publication based in Pittsburgh, and a sports talk show on WTAE-AM 1250.)

OUT & ABOUT

New York in December was a perfect fit for Madusa, who frolicked through The Big Apple in conjunction with an appearance on the nationally-syndicated "Regis & Kathie Lee" talk show.

"It was cold, but it was fun. A lot of fun," said Madusa, the Florida resident. "I got to see all of the Christmas decorations and went shopping at Tiffany's, among other things. It really was a memorable experience."

Madusa on Regis & Kathie Lee

Madusa flew north the day before the show and was met at the airport by her friend Todd. The two then trampled through the winter wonderland, stopping to shop at plenty of places. For lunch, the two hit Madusa's favorite New York City restaurant, Carnegie Deli, known for its matzo ball soup. "It was wonderful, as usual," she said. (Madusa's picture now hangs at the restaurant, along with other luminaries, such as Sylvester Stallone and Brooke Shields.

Madusa spent the night at The New York Hotel and actually was greeted at the hotel by a cooler full of Butterfinger candy bars and ice-cold skimmed milk, her treat of choice.

"Truthfully, I was bummed out because I didn't get to eat any of it that night ... I didn't want to look bloated or fat on the show," she said, smiling.

Madusa's limousine arrived the following morning at about 7 am and transported her to the studio. She immediately saw Kathie Lee and was shown her dressing room.

"The funniest thing happened before I went out," Madusa began, "I was in a hallway and accidentally walked into Regis' dressing room. And he was changing. Well, he was wearing these worn out blue Fruit of the Loom undies. He was totally embarrassed, but tried to make fun of it by inviting me in. Ya know, Regis has the skinniest legs. I think Regis' assistant nearly died because of what happened ... she probably thought she would lose her job."

In addition to Madusa, actor Tim Conway and a French chef "with lots of good food," appeared.

"Before the show, we planned to do certain things, but, Regis didn't do any of them ... he just wanted to pin me on the ground, on the mat that was there. I guess his male gender was shining through," Madusa said.

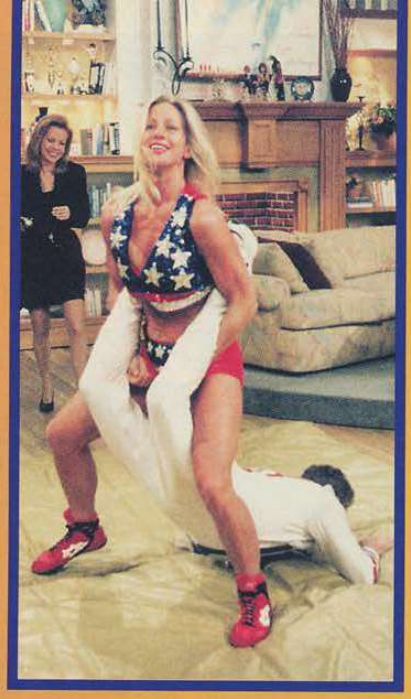
Regis even appeared on the show in a one-piece wrestling outfit, "that was totally scary," Madusa said. Kathie Lee is "totally cool," Madusa said. "I know who runs that show ... and it's good to see that a woman is in charge."

After the show, Madusa was to return home on a 1 o'clock plane, but, she changed her return trip until the evening ... to get in more shopping. "I hit my favorite place, FAO Schwartz," Madusa said. "It was so cool to see that place at Christmas time with all of the puppets, games and toys.

"Overall, the trip was wonderful, enlightening, fun, encouraging, motivating and definitely a step forward in my career. I'm looking forward to future talk show appearances. Are you listening, David Letterman?"

As the Editor of this magazine has decided to nix my column, I am taking this opportunity to address you.

February means Valentines Day. I can't wait. I wonder



who will send me a card this year. I also wonder who won't be sending me one. Let's see, I've gotta send a few myself. There's Jason, Ross, Axel, Travis and, of course, Lex. My dog Kisska also gets one.

The Super Bowl was way-cool, especially since I was there. Personally, I was cheering for the Jacksonville Jaguars in the AFC Championship Game against New England. I'm quite partial, ya know, to the Jaguars. As in sports cars. Now to the wrestling matters at hand ...

I've got a new series to debut this month: WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT. Check it out.

HOT: Lex (Sexy) Luger. Not only brains carry this man, but a physique to drool over.

NOT: Eric Bischoff. A very changed man.

HOT: Debra McMichael. A $10 million smile — and $10 million to back it up!

NOT: Big Bubba. Here's a cat that has out-lived his nine lives.

HOT: Akira Hokuto. For making the press believe the biggest scam possible, her marriage.

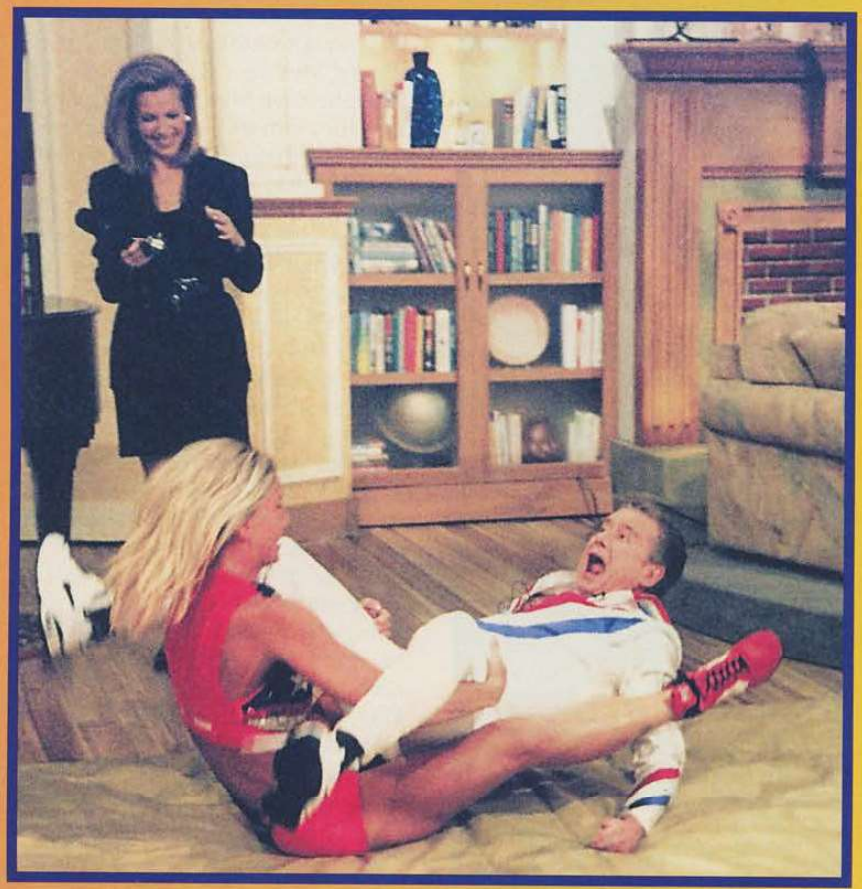
NOT: Kensuke Sasaki. For breaking Japanese tradition.

HOT: Sting. No matter what he does, he keeps to himself and keeps going and going and going.

NOT: Alex Wright. I'm sorry, but I just can't stand that ring entrance music.

I really would like to call myself HOT, but I know some of you — since Starrcade — would say NOT.

Starrcade was a total surprise for everyone, I am sure. Including myself, the loser I am. Well, with a little help once again from Sonny Onoo. One day I will get my win, I promise. Dean Malenko's match with Ultimo Dragon was very long. Malenko could have won earlier in the match, I thought. I really enjoy Malenko's wrestling. He is



a wonderful person to look up to, and a big help to my wrestling. The Hogan-Piper match was an eye-opener.

I would like to say again that this column is strictly my opinion. No one else's. Hopefully WCW Magazine remembers that. This is a freedom-of-speech country and I do not say anything in bad taste; I do have class. Some month's are a little brassy, but without a little dirt, who would read?

By the time you read this, The NWO's pay-per-view, Souled Out, will have happened. Imagine that, in Iowa, a state with one lake ... and all of those thugs. My guess, the folks in Iowa heard "Souled Out" was coming and thought it was a bunch of farmers on the "Soiled Out" tour.

TALKING POINT

With Mike Tenay

Last August, at The Clash of the Champions in Denver, I got to spend some time with Ultimo Dragon. We talked wrestling at length. Well, about as long as we could with his limited English and my, uh, extensive Japanese (sake and sushi). Anyway, it was an interesting experience and certainly entertaining.

Last December, at Starrcade 1996 in Nashville, I again got to spend some time with Ultimo Dragon. This time, I saw wrestling at length. Nine World Cruiserweight Championship belts ... all in one room, in the possession of one man: The Ultimo Dragon. It truly was an amazing sight, especially seeing how proud the Dragon was.

Ultimo Dragon is a 29-year-old wrestler, 10 years as a pro, who has all the skill in the world and despite his association with Sonny Onoo, the potential to be a champion well into the 21st Century. Ultimo Dragon translates to The Final Dragon. He is, it is said, the final protege of Bruce Lee. True? Who knows. But, I will say, without question, Ultimo Dragon is a ground-breaker in this sport when it comes to revolutionary, high-risk wrestlers. Just like Jushin "Thunder" Liger (of the late-1980s) and the present-day phenom named Rey Mysterio, Jr.

The Dragon's offense is incredible, to say the least. The Asai Moonsault (He's on the apron, the opponent is on the floor; Dragon springs from the middle rope, moonsaults to the floor.) was executed against Dean Malenko at Starrcade for the first time I can recall in WCW. I personally had been waiting for it, but hadn't seen it up to that point. Trust me, it's worth checking out the video tape to see that move; it's awesome!! Dragon also has mastered the quebrada, a move you might see Chris Jericho do from time to time. In it, Dragon does a midrope moonsault back into the ring as opposed to out onto the floor. Plus, there's the Running Liger Bomb in which, at the point of impact on the powerbomb, Dragon springs his legs out so he's covering his opponent's shoulders in a pinning predicament. And the Dragon also has an assortment of spinkicks and a great handspring elbow.

All offense, no defense? No way!! Dragon has superior knowledge of counter-holds; he is a very strong mat wrestler adept at all styles.

Perhaps you're wondering about the eight unified belts that Dragon brought to Starrcade. Here's the deal: Last August, New Japan Pro Wrestling held the J-Crown, a tournament featuring eight Junior Heavyweight (Cruiserweight) Champions from around the world. Great Britain, Mexico and Japan were among the representatives. Dragon made it to the finals, lost, but, shortly thereafter, won the eight belts in Japan. The idea for the tournament was the brainchild of Jushin "Thunder" Liger who, ironically, is the one Dragon beat — in a record 2 1/2 minutes — for the titles. To say that this was a huge story in Japan would be an understatement.

Last spring, wrestling legend Antonio Inoki held the inaugural Wrestling Peace Festival in Los Angeles, with representatives present from just about every major promotion worldwide. How big was it? Eric Bischoff sat in the front row. Well, at that card, Eric discovered a high-flyer from Mexico: Rey Mysterio, Jr. And who was Mysterio's tag team partner in the event? Ultimo Dragon.

In the mid-1980s, Dragon was training at the New Japan Dojo. He was on a mission to make it; that was his goal, his lifelong dream. But the instructors saw otherwise. They thought he just wasn't good enough to make the grade, and they turned him down for a job.

"That's OK ... I will make it," Dragon said.

And with that, Dragon moved to Mexico City, on his own, and began training in the lucha libre style. He was, in a matter of months, a top star in Mexico. Guess what? The Japanese then wanted him back. In fact, they almost insisted he return.

Ultimo Dragon is a case study in perseverance.

Ultimo Dragon, a fan favorite? Sounds crazy to some, but, for the past 10 years, that's been The Dragon's way. And, in reality, that still is his approach. However, since Sonny Onoo acquired his contract, while his basic wrestling style has remained the same, with Sonny Onoo guiding him, Dragon is not afraid to take a shortcut. Personally, I think it's a bad mistake on Dragon's part, but that's only my feeling on the matter. Dragon is a real student of the sport. He watches everyone's match and studies video taped matches to no end. Dragon, if he could learn better English, would have a ball with Diamond Dallas Page, especially since we know DDP won't learn Japanese.

Ultimo Dragon will be one of the elite wrestlers of the year, assuredly a

leader in the Cruiserweight division worldwide. WCW needs to get him under contract NOW! He is very impressive, even in defeat

So what about Sonny Onoo? In fairness, I asked Sonny for his feelings about The Dragon and you can bet he said a mouthfull.

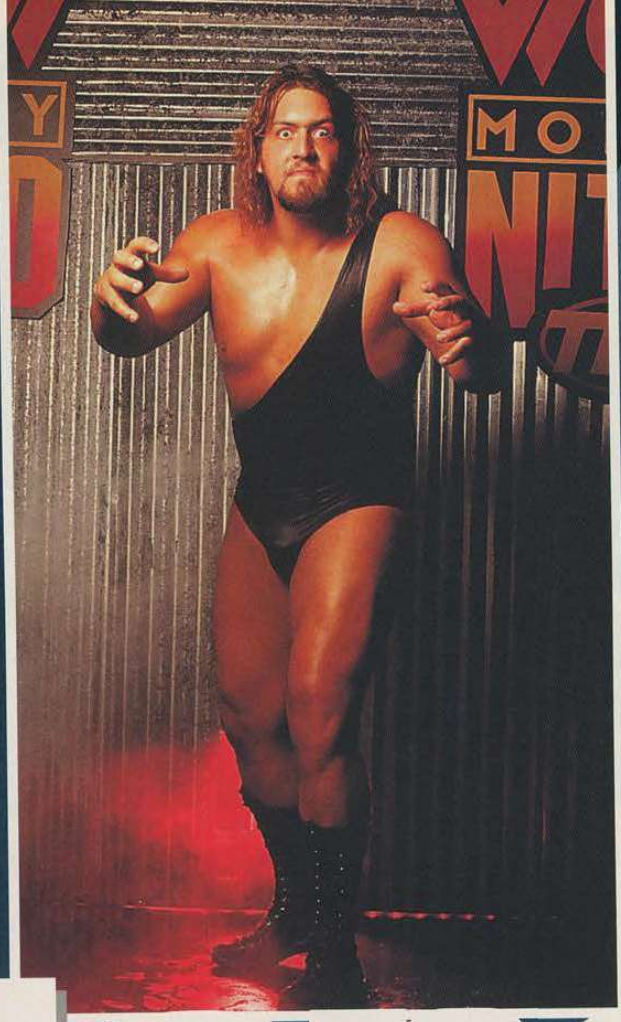
"Japan, yes, we batted three-for-three at Starrcade. It was a good day for Japan. Liger, even without me ringside, handled that little pip-squeak from south of the border, Rey Mysterio, Jr. Akira Hokuto destroyed Madusa. And my main man, Ultimo Dragon, handled Dean Malenko," Onoo said. "Dean Malenko is a great wrestler; I will give him credit. But he's only a mat wrestler, not a great all-around superstar like my Dragon. He's not a risk-taker like my Dragon. Dean Malenko keeps saying he is the Man of 1,000 Holds, but did they help him one bit against my Dragon? The thing that sets Ultimo Dragon apart from everyone else is, he has had worldwide experience."

Ultimo Dragon is a superstar to watch, a superstar WCW needs to sign to a long-term contract!!

With respect to David Letterman, every month from here on out, I will offer a Top Five or Top 10 list on a different subject. Kicking it off this issue will be the "Coolest Masks in WCW." Remember, by the way, these are my opinions, and my opinions alone. If you disagree, great, write to me with your thoughts. Well, here goes ...

5. Mascarita Sagrada
The "sacred mask" makes this mini superstar a heavyweight.
4. Jushin "Thunder" Liger
Psychosis predecessor still a top choice.
3. Rey Mysterio, Jr.
The king of mystery still remains a classic.
2. Ultimo Dragon
Color mix and different masks make him a runner-up.
1. Psychosis
Combination of mask and costume put him head and horns above the pack.

Alone?



In the 1982 movie "Rocky 3," Clubber Lang (played by Mr. T) challenges the ever-confident, er, "comfortable," as The Giant calls it, champion and beats him senseless. Rocky (Sylvester Stallone) didn't train too hard for their first fight and simply lost his motivation.

The Giant can relate.

"I'm a leader, a world champion, period. While in The New World Order, I tried to play the back up role, and it just wasn't working," The Giant said. "One of the conditions for entering The NWO was, that I would be given a title shot no matter who had the title because that's the most important things to me: Being WCW World Champion. Then, as the months went along, it was made clear to me that everything was fine in The NWO as long as Hulk is the champion, but that just didn't fly with me. Sure, I learned a lot from Hulk (Hogan), Scott (Hall) and Kevin (Nash), and certainly had a good time with them, but, business is business, personal is personal ... and this is nothing but business."

The Giant wants championship gold around his 7-foot-4, 474-pound frame. And he doesn't care who he's got to beat to win it.

"Ever since my first day in The NWO, I had been asking in private about a title shot and was repeatedly told, 'If you win World War 3, you'll get it just like the rules stipulate,'" The Giant said. "It was very evident to me that everyone (in The NWO) wanted me to win World War 3 so Hulk could have a day off (in a match against the winner). But it didn't, don't and won't work that way with me. I want to be the champ, and nothing else will do!!

"I know what I need to do to win the gold. I know I have the natural ability; I just have to harness my skills."

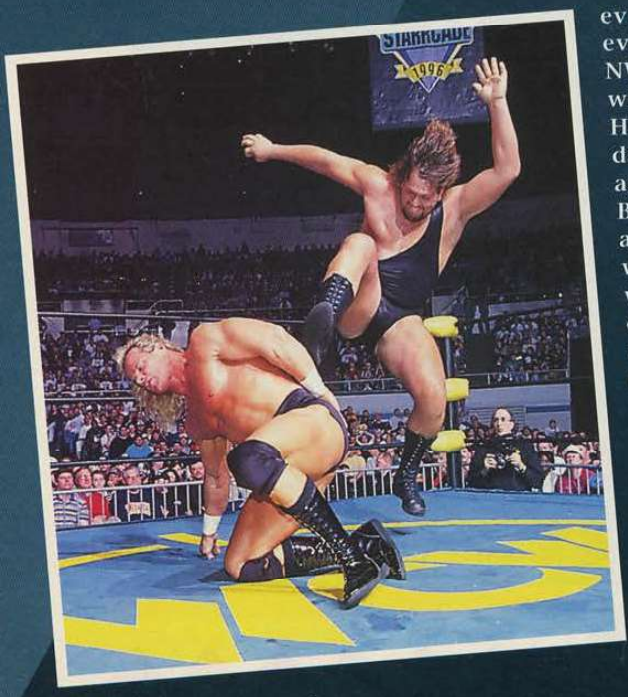
The Giant had a title shot at Hogan's World Heavyweight Championship belt scheduled at The NWO's pay-per-view, Souled Out, live from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on Jan. 25.

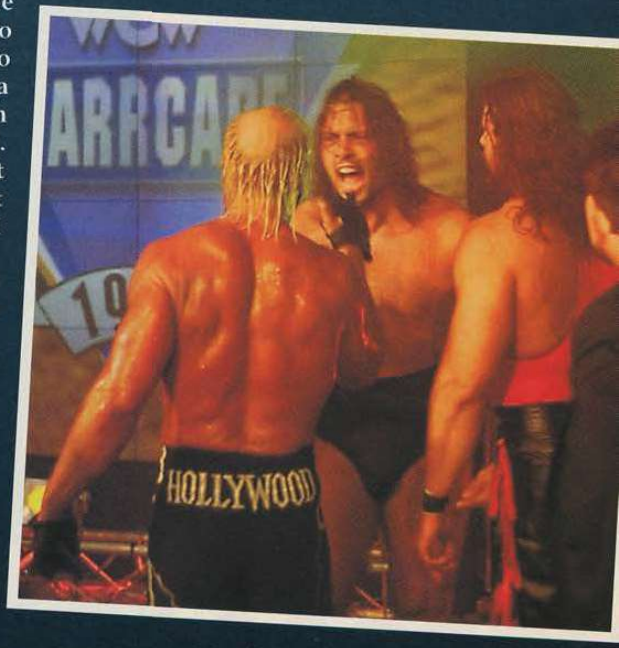
"I'm not Hulk's monkey; I'm not Scott's monkey; I'm not Kevin's monkey; I'm not Ted DiBiase's monkey. I'm no one's monkey; I'm The Giant, and that's the way it is. And that's the way it's gonna be," The Giant barked. "It's not that I really hate The NWO or that I really hate Hulk Hogan; I just wanted a title shot, that's it. I felt comfortable in The NWO; I felt wanted. But, in reality, as I look back, I now know I was not wanted. And, yes, that hurts.

"I think a lot of The NWO members write checks that their bodies cannot cash, if you know what I mean."

Starting with "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan and The Outsiders.

"I am not a smartaleck, like Scott and Kevin, who are very witty and very entertaining; they think they are impervious, but, in reality, when things got heavy, it was me that they looked to. It was the same way with Hogan, who probably is the smartest mind to ever lace a pair of wrestling boots ... he also is the biggest con man in the business; he is devious, a cut-throat.





Much greater than Ric Flair."

The Giant, on the last Monday Nitro in 1996, showed that he can bring Hogan to his knees. With his right hand, no less.

"I could find Hogan when he comes out of the gym in Largo, Fla., and beat the life out of him right there. But it doesn't serve the point. The point is, I want to go after him hard and heavy, embarrass him, expose him for what he is: A rotten apple," The Giant said. "When you look at The NWO, you're looking at some incredible wrestling minds, what with all of the different business tactics they use, the corporate takeover ploys. The four months I spent in The NWO was a crash course in big business. Throughout the experience, I played the part of the patient fisherman and, the great thing is, after being around these guys, seeing how they think, how they eat, what their goals are, what their motivation is ... I now know The NWO inside and out. I know where they're coming from, where they're going."

He has the insider information stock market insiders would kill for. So is The Giant a smarter person following his NWO stint? Without question. Can The NWO be stopped? Without question.

"The only thing I can tell the wrestlers of WCW is, whatever values, morals you adhere to, now is the time to hold on to it more than ever because they will try to pick that apart. If you know who you are and what you're about, The NWO can't really affect you," The Giant said. "I think The Giant of 1997 — thanks to The NWO — is bigger, stronger, more dangerous than The Giant of late-1996. Unquestionably. I got lazy at times while in The NWO; that won't happen anymore."

Here's what The Giant had to say about a few WCW superstars:

"ROWDY" RODDY PIPER

"I had my chance to chokeslam Piper, but, at that moment, I developed a conscience ... and it just didn't seem right. It just didn't feel right to chokeslam Piper. That's why I didn't do it"

LEX LUGER

"I guess you could say I dropped the ball for The NWO by not beating Lex Luger, but, hey, he is a very tough competitor who has been on an incredible roll; he's got more fan support than any time in his career. Lex came through like a real trooper in that match.

"I never expected to lose to anyone, even Lex. Perhaps that loss will be the biggest "victory," of sorts in my career."

STING

"The first time Sting came to me, at Starrcade, I was so dazed and confused. The only thing I remember him saying was, 'How bad do you want it?' It didn't really click in right away, but, the next day, it hit me."

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FORMING A TAG TEAM?

"Not right now, but, as the smart businessman, which I think I am, I always leave my options open. If I'm presented with a situation that I think is favorable, yeah, I would do it. Do I know who I would like to team with? Yes, unquestionably. Will I name him? No way, at least not right now."

WAS IT A PLOY ON KEVIN SULLIVAN'S PART FOR YOU TO JOIN THE NWO?

"No comment."

DID KEVIN SULLIVAN SEND YOU INTO THE NWO AS A SPY?

"No comment."

HAVE YOU HAD ANY CONTACT WITH KEVIN SULLIVAN SINCE YOUR DEPARTURE FROM THE NWO?

"No comment."

HAS KEVIN SULLIVAN SENT A SPY INTO THE NWO?

"No comment."

There he was, quite familiar with his surroundings yet, at the same time, about to embark on a voyage into the unknown. Jeff Jarrett was at home April 6, 1986, when he walked into a sold out Mid-South Coliseum in Memphis, Tenn., just as he had thousands of times in the past. This time, however, he was not at ease. He had the butterflies as if it were the Super Bowl, not just a professional wrestling card for a small, regional promotion. This was Jarrett's true indoctrination to the sport that had been part of his family dating back to grandma Christine. This was Jarrett's first match.

I'll be a success with or without the Horsemen

"Everyone was watching my first match, and there are not many wrestlers who can say that their first match was in a sold out Mid-South Coliseum," Jarrett recalls. "As I look back on it, it was great, but also was very nerve-racking. That was a lot of pressure for an 18-year-old kid."

The blonde-haired Jarrett, now 29, extends the family's grappling legacy one more rung. There was Christine, the grandmother who, as most say, was a lady in a man's business who made it. She did everything over her 40 years in the sport except wrestle and referee. Her credentials speak for themselves, as all former wrestlers from that area will attest. She is now retired. Then there's grandfather Eddie Marlin, a hard-working, blue-collar type, in and out of the ring. A tough wrestler who often teamed with Tommy Gilbert, Marlin is now in his mid-60s and retired. And no one can forget Jerry Jarrett, one of the top wrestlers in the South in the 1970s who later went was the USWA promoter. He is now 54 and working for a real estate development company.

"Coming from a wrestling family has its advantages, and also its disadvantages. From Day One, there was a huge spotlight focused on me," said Jeff, who wrestled from 1986-91 in the USWA, Texas, Puerto Rico and Japan, then from 1993-96 for the WWF.

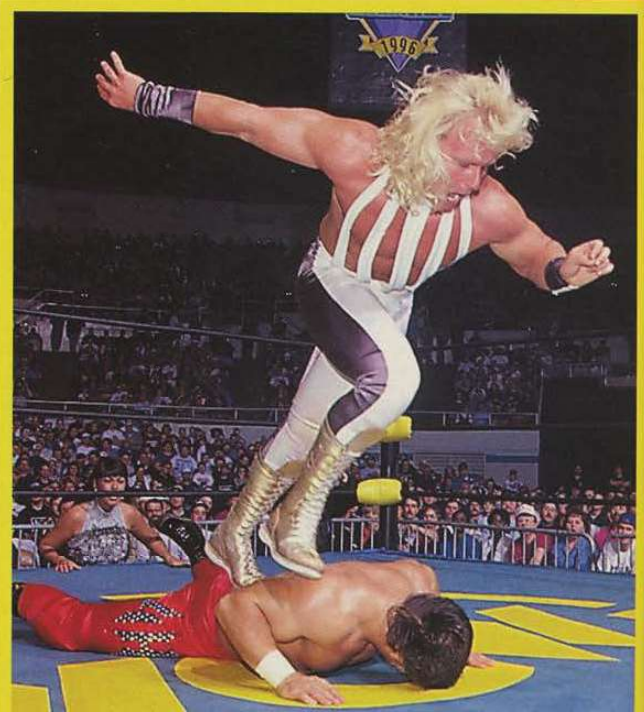
"The disadvantage of coming from a wrestling family is, everyone thinks everything is handed to you, everyone thinks you don't have to work for anything. But, in reality, it's the other way around; you have to be that much better; you have to put in many more hours. There are a lot of obstacles to overcome and, yeah, there were days when I wish I didn't come from a wrestling family because then I would get more respect, but, as the years have gone on and people have learned that I am what I am and they've seen my work ethic, I have gotten more and more respect. In wrestling, there is one barometer that everyone can go by: Once you step through the ropes, it doesn't matter what family you come from, who your friends are, who you like, who you don't like, who likes you, who doesn't like you ... if you can produce inside the ring, that speaks for itself. And I think that's what I have shown. You can't survive 10 years in this business, as I have, without producing the goods."

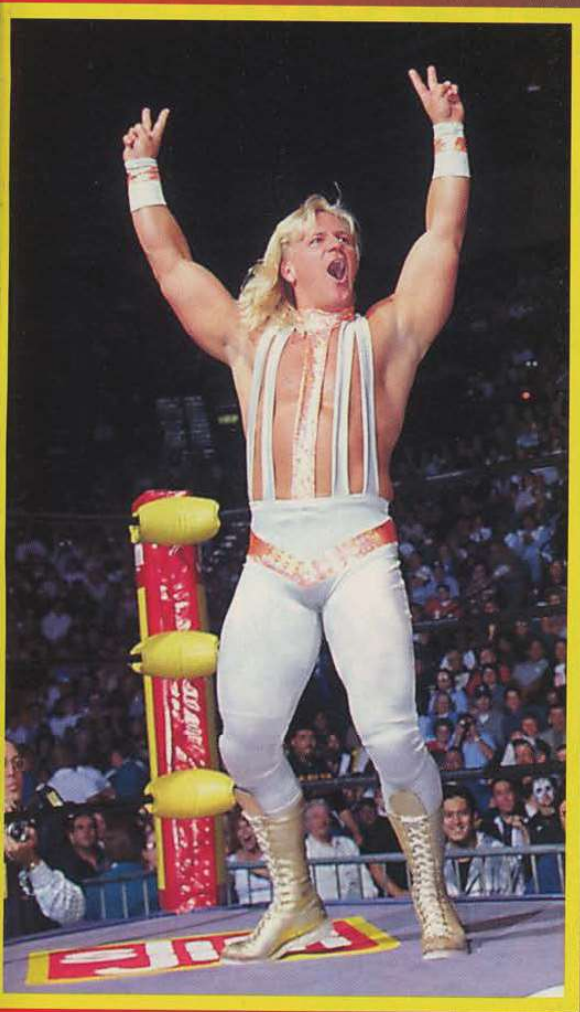
Said WCW broadcaster Chris Cruise, "The story on Jeff Jarrett always was, you'll only be a success because your daddy is the promoter. But, I'll tell you, if Jerry Jarrett was not in the sport of wrestling, Jeff Jarrett still would be a star. He really has proven himself."

Added broadcaster Lee Marshall, "Rather than just ride Jerry's coat tails, Jeff made sure that the entire world knew he was going to be a success based on his own ability to compete on an international level. And that's what he's done. He didn't live in his old man's shadow, and we have seen that happen a couple of times over the years in wrestling and other sports."

Jarrett is a carbon copy of his wrestling dad: Not the most gifted or talented wrestler, but real smart. The younger Jarrett, like the older, knows what to do inside the squared-circle, and when to do it. And Jeff has a strut of confidence that rings of Ric Flair, although Jarrett admits he learned it from 1970s wrestler Jackie Fargo.

"I'm proud to say that, over the years, every regional promotion has gone out of business, and I mean every one of them. But, here in 1997, the USWA is still a viable wrestling company that makes money. Sure, it doesn't make a lot of money and it's not too glamorous at times, but, I could equate it to a farm club: Guys learn a





lot about wrestling in the promotion," Jarrett said. "In every pay-per-view, be it from WCW, The NWO or even the WWF, I would say seven to 10 of the wrestlers have been through the USWA territory at one time or another, so that speaks a lot for it."

So where does Double-J stand? Is he with The Four Horsemen? Is he against the 4H club? Is he with WCW? Is he with The NWO? Ever since Jarrett's arrival last year, there has been more mystery than in a Stephen King thriller. Ric Flair supported him immediately. Ric Flair's best friend, Arn Anderson, has nothing but bad blood for Jarrett.

No one said it was going to be easy for Jarrett.

"As far as I'm concerned, there's no tension. I knew, coming in the door, that I was going to make some definite ripples in WCW. And I have done just that," Jarrett said. "I kind of expected the treatment I have received, but I know that it isn't set in stone that everyone on a team has to see things eye-to-eye ... I know things will work out.

"Ric Flair watched me and instantly saw that I have talent, ability and leadership skills. And, let's remember, Ric Flair is the 13-time World Heavyweight Champion; that speaks for itself. In 100 years, the name who wrestling fans will remember from the 1980s is, Ric Flair. He stood for wrestling; he stood for heritage; he stood for history. He has faced more World Champions than anyone. From the Funks to the Briscos to Harley Race, and everyone else. Ric Flair has faced 'em all, and beaten 'em all. He is the man. So, to get the stamp of approval from Ric Flair is an extreme highlight in my career, a blessing."

Jarrett is a crafty grappler with an abundance of confidence. Who else would verbally berate Arn Anderson TO HIS FACE? Especially one who wants to lead WCW.

So who is Jeff Jarrett?

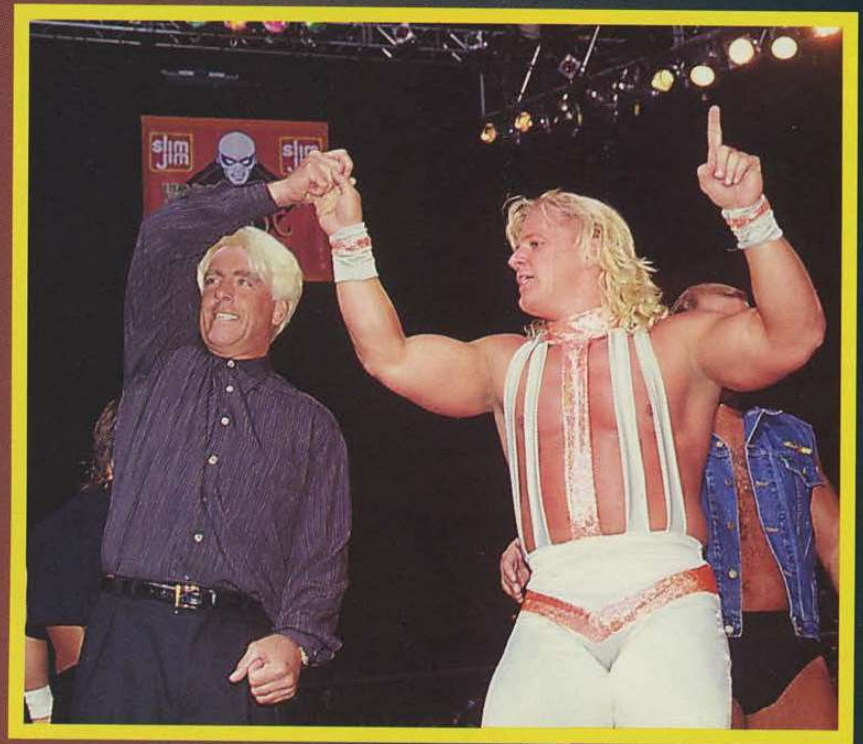
"Without question, the most qualified wrestler in the business today. Wrestling has been in my family for three generations. I've been on all sides of it; I've watched my dad promote; I've watched my grandmother promote; I've even refereed," Jarrett said. "I excel in every category needed to be a superstar wrestler: How they present themselves in public, how they present themselves in the ring, how their body looks, how they walk, how they talk. And, I stand for wrestling; I'm not a cartoon; I'm not just a street fighter. I do all things well. I am a natural leader because that's what I stand for: Championships, heritage, history. I've said it a thousand times before: I'm not the biggest, fastest or strongest, nor am I the best brawler, but I'm the smartest; I will find a way to beat every opponent. And that does mean every opponent, from Rey Mysterio, Jr., to The Giant.

"In wrestling, you don't want to say anything unless you can deliver. Well, I can deliver."

Ask The Giant. Upon his arrival, Jarrett promised he would not be choke-slammed by the gargantuan. And at Halloween Havoc in Las Vegas, in their first meeting, Jarrett lived up to his word.

"My goal is very simple, I want to be the World Heavyweight Champion. And anyone who ever puts on a pair of boots, if that ain't your goal, I think you're in wrestling for the wrong reason," Jarrett said.

"I like the way wrestling is heading in 1997, as it shows in the (TV) ratings. During the late-1980s, the sport got away from wrestling; it turned into a cartoon. The main attraction to professional wrestling at the time was NOT the guy's ability in the ring; it was, instead, his out-of-the-ring ability. How many movies can he do? How many birds can he bring down to the ring? How many different animals can show up on one show? Everyone's gotta be a gimmick, either a plumber, a trashman, or whatever. It got away from wrestling. Some promoters sometimes think they have a God-like ability to make a person whoever they want, that they can tell the fans whatever they want and the fans will believe it. But the fans are not stupid. They know a good wrestler when they see one and they know a bad wrestler when they see one. You can't fool the fans."



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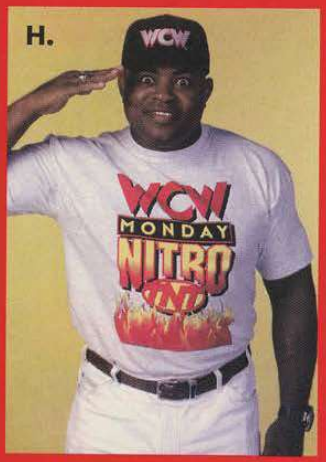

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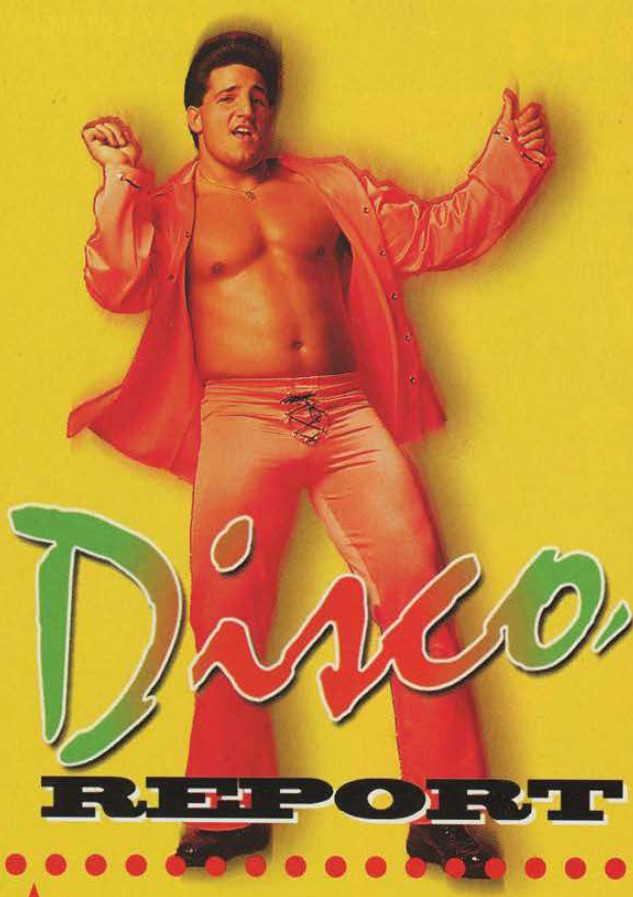
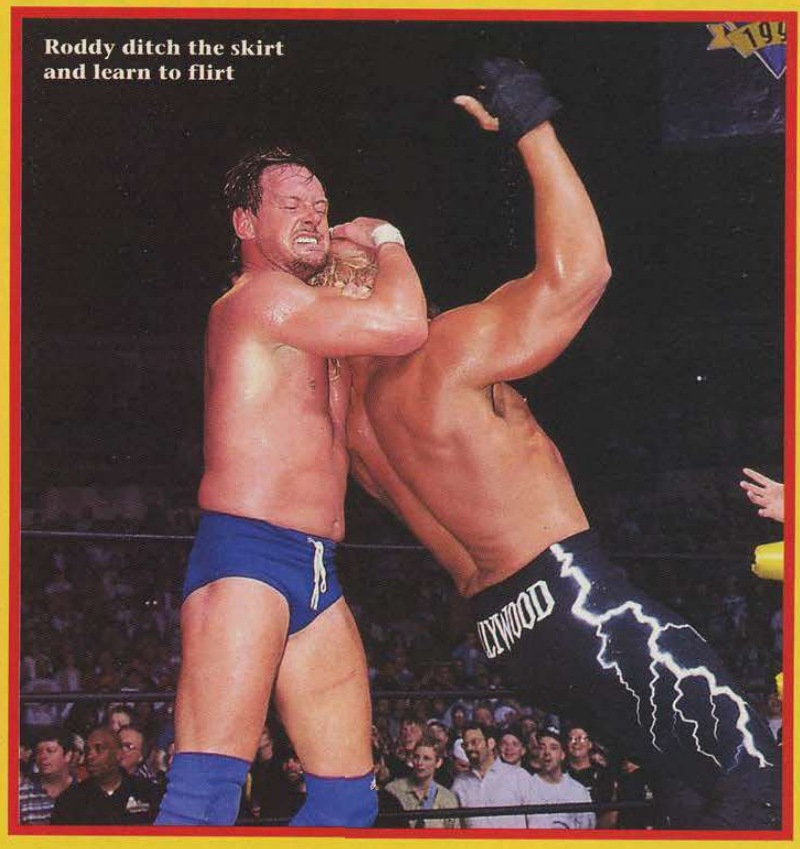


Disco Report



Roddy ditch the skirt and learn to flirt

Well, 1997 is starting to kick into top-gear and the "Shake Your Booty" tour is on a roll. Thanks to the Disco Inferno's new leglock, The Last Dance, the TV ratings are at a record high, almost as high as my favorite show: American Bandstand. The Disco Inferno promises titles in 1997 along with my successful dancing tour.

Speaking of dancing, are you people as insulted as I am by that strut dance thing that "Nature Boy" Ric Flair has been doing? Hey, Flair, if you don't want to keep making an idiot of yourself on national TV, give Disco a call and I'll show you how to truly 'Shake Your Booty'.

The Disco Inferno made quite a few resolutions for 1997, and I guarantee you that none of them were the same ones that "Rowdy" Roddy Piper made. It appears that the skirt-wearing Scot has resolved to get beat up by the entire New World Order (NWO) at every opportunity. Well, where the Disco Inferno comes from, there's a dance club open every night so I can find a lot better things to do than getting jumped by a gang whenever I feel like it. Hey, Piper, ditch the skirt and learn how to flirt — and then maybe you can hang with me.

What about Debra McMichael? She has almost as many beauty pageant trophies as the Disco Inferno has dance contest trophies. And I know what she's talking about when she says she shows up to work even if her hairdresser calls in sick. Do you realize the type of high-maintenance that it takes to keep up the perfect head of hair that the Disco Inferno has? I'm sure you people don't, because you probably are content with a 40-cent comb for your half-bald head. Disco Inferno, on the other hand, spends a minimum of 45-minutes three-times-a-DAY with hundreds of dollars of top-notch haircare products and a $1,500 blow dryer. So, remember, nobody's hair is perfect ... well, almost nobody.

One of the Disco Inferno's least favorite holidays is Valentines Day. Why do I hate it? Because you don't realize how hard it is to go over 300-500 DAILY applicants from women wanting to dance with the Disco Inferno — and be my Valentine! The only qualification, ladies, is: If you're a beauty, shake your booty!!

I am so sick and tired of hearing Rocco Rock and Johnny Grunge of Public Enemy talk about those cheesesteak shops in South Philadelphia. In fact, I had the misfortune of trying one of those burgers. I went with my Uncle Tony and Cousin Jimmy. Well, all I care to say about the subject is ... I know the steak had to be fresh, because I could still see the marks where the jockey hit it. Uncle Tony and Cousin Jimmy, get well soon! Public Enemy, don't expect us back again!!

How about these new masked Mexican wrestlers, not to mention all of the masked mini Mexican wrestlers. Personally, I think they should all get together and form The MWO, The Mexican World Order. There must be a hundred of them, maybe more. But guess what? The Disco Inferno has top-secret information about their identities. When they're not doing their high-flying suicide gymnastics act on WCW television, they're all workers at Taco Bell in Amarillo, Texas. Can you dig it? I knew you could.

In last month's issue, Buff Bagwell insinuated that Disco Inferno was in someway an inferior wrestler. Well Bagwell anytime you want, get your booty in the ring and I'll dance that sickly grin to the other side of your face.

That's all for this month so, remember, It's Your Duty To Shake Your Booty!!

Love,
Disco Inferno

P.S. Some of you fans might wonder why my column has a few less words than the other columns in this magazine. Well, I planned this first column with you in mind ... so the editors of WCW Magazine could run a bigger photo of Disco Inferno.

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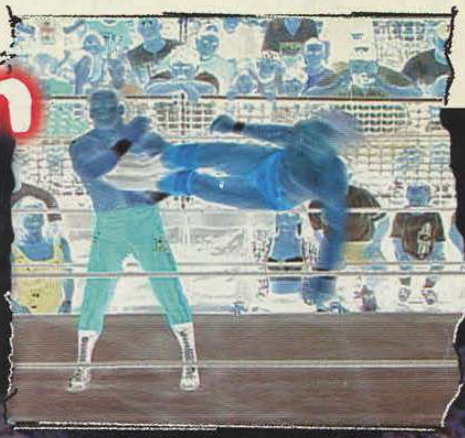

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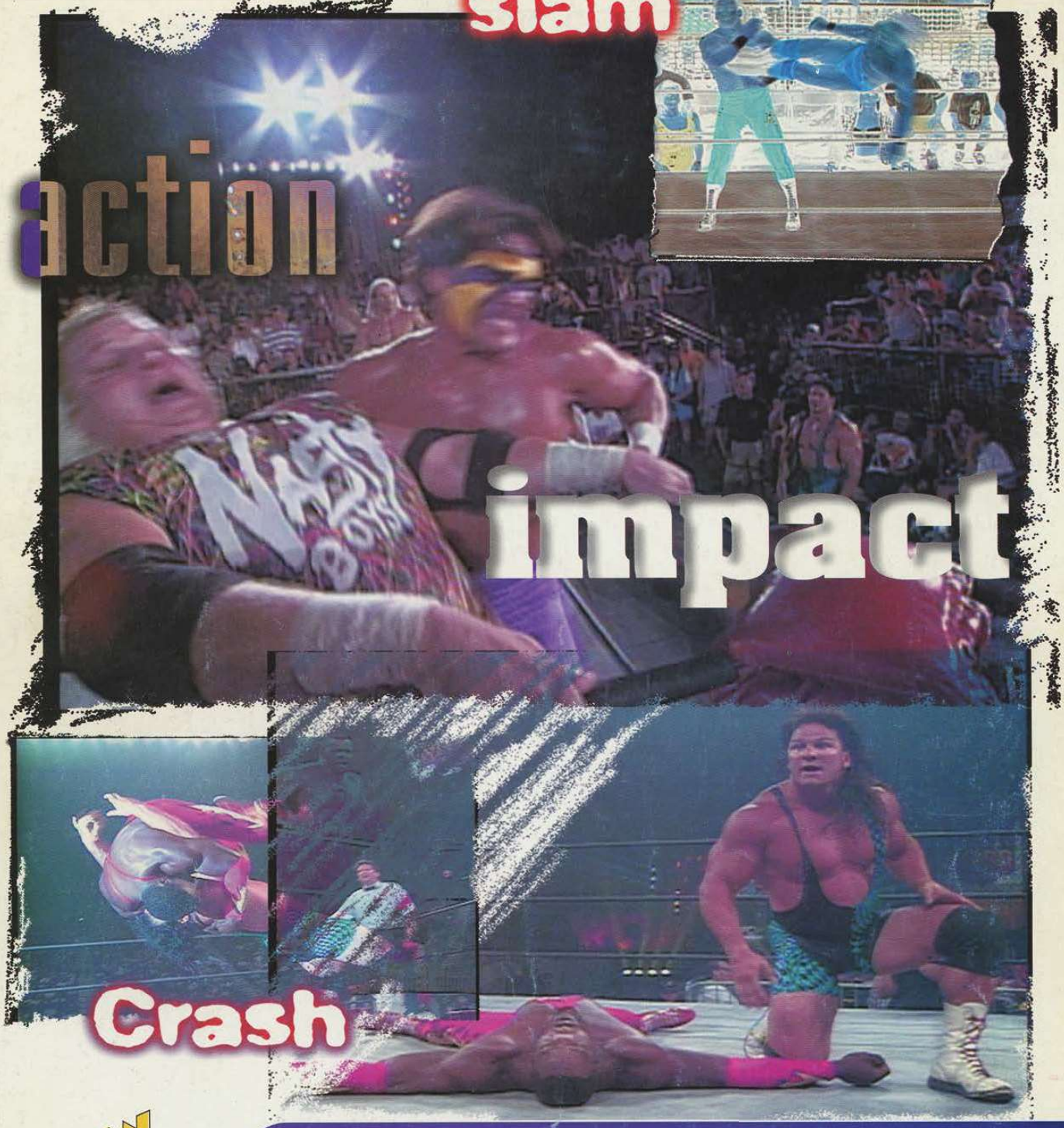

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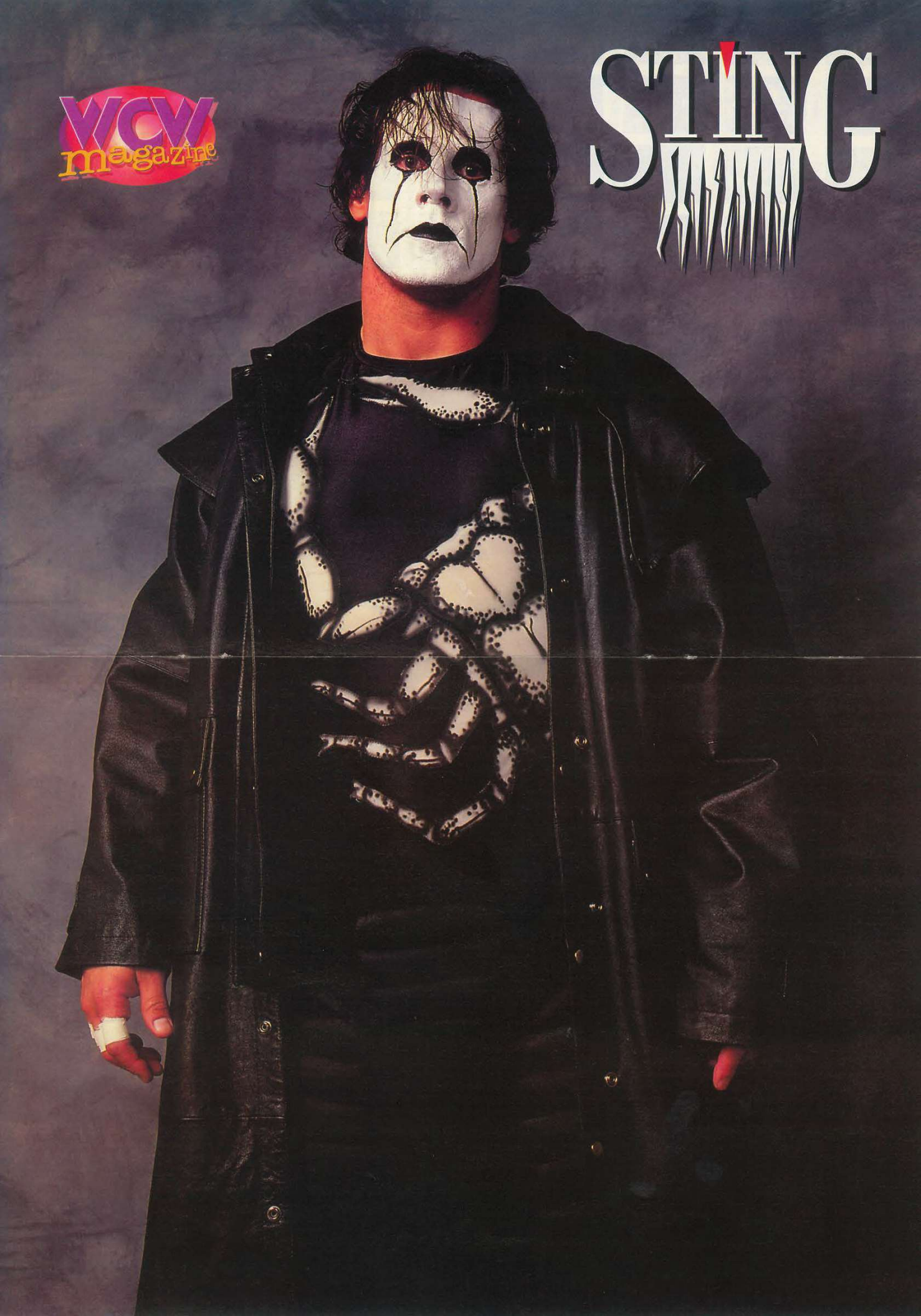
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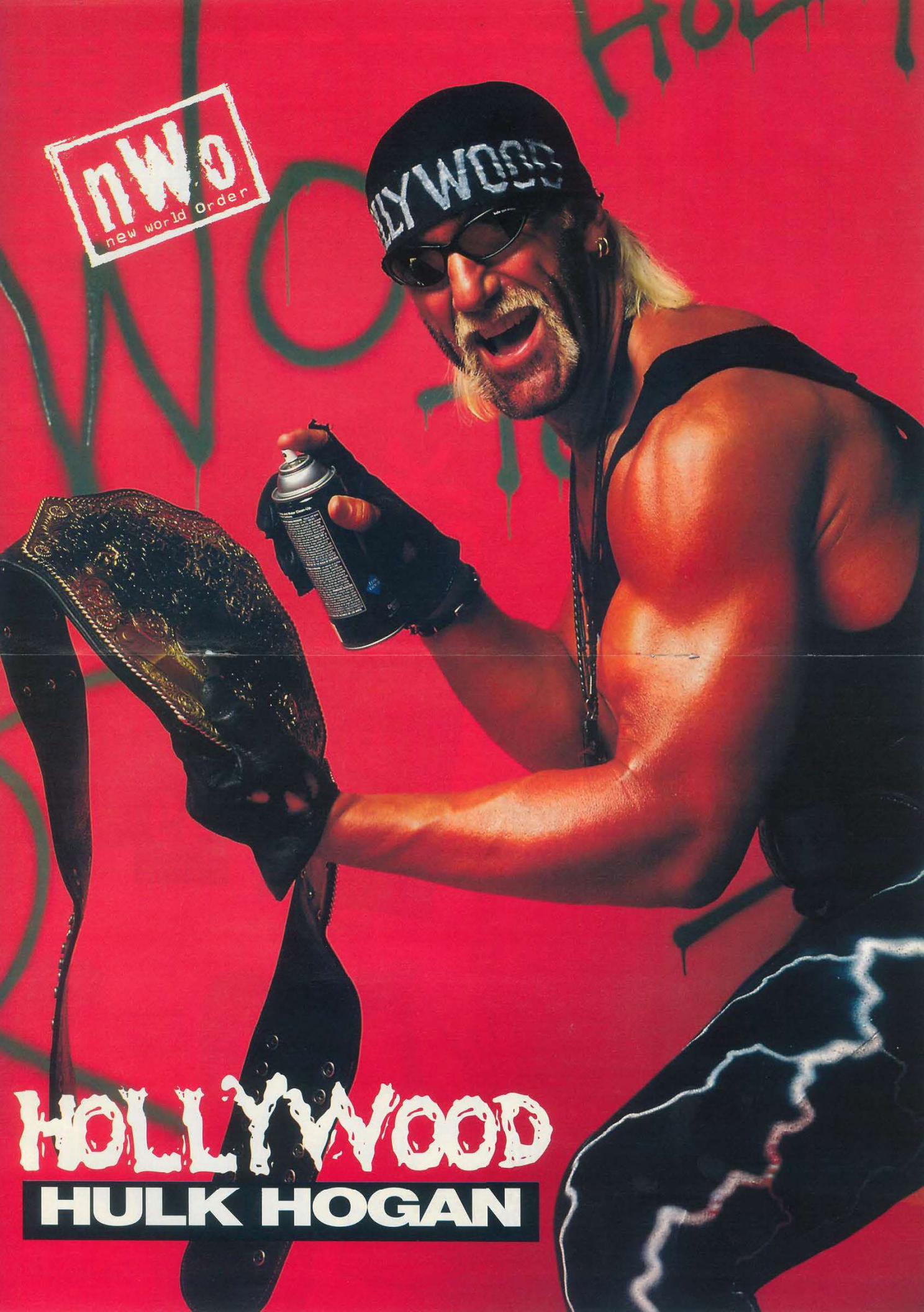
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